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THE

# MONTHLY EPITOME,

FOR MARCH, 1803.

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**XXI.** *The Life and Writings of WILLIAM COWPER, Esq. with an Introductory Letter to the Rt. Hon. Earl Cowper. By William Hayley, Esq. 2 vols. 4to. 400 pages each. Johnson. 2l. 12s. 6d.*

THIS most instructive and entertaining life of our favorite poet Cowper, will be susceptible of many selections, and as our readers will thank us for ample specimens, we mean to study their gratification.

The introductory letter to Earl Cowper, by Mr. Hayley is so elegant and impressive, that we shall give it entire.

"Your family, my lord, our country itself, and the whole literary world, sustained such a loss in the death of that amiable man, and enchanting author, who forms the subject of these volumes, as inspired the friends of genius and virtue with universal concern. It soon became a general wish, that some authentic, and copious memorial of a character so highly interesting should be produced with all becoming dispatch; not only to render due honour to the dead, but to alleviate the regret of a nation taking a just and liberal pride in the reputation of a Poet, who had obtained, and deserved her applause, her esteem, her affection. If this laudable wish was very sensibly felt by the public at large, it glowed with peculiar warmth and eagerness in the bosom of the few, who had been so fortunate as to enjoy an intimacy with Cowper in some un-

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clouded periods of his life, and who knew from such an intimacy, that a lively sweetness, and sanctity of spirit, were as truly the characteristics of his social enjoyments, as they are allowed to constitute a principal charm in his poetical productions. It has justly been regarded as a signal blessing to have possessed the perfect esteem and confidence of such a man; and not long after his decease, one of his particular friends presumed to suggest to an accomplished lady, nearly related both to him and to your lordship, that she herself might be the biographer the most worthy of the poet. The long intimacy and correspondence which she enjoyed with him from their lively hours of infantine friendship to the dark evening of his wonderfully chequered life; her cultivated and affectionate mind, which led her to take peculiar delight and interest in the merit and the reputation of his writings, and lastly that generous attachment to her afflicted relation, which induced her to watch over his disordered health, in a period of its most calamitous depression, these circumstances united seemed to render it desirable that she should assume the office of Cowper's Biographer, having such advantages for the perfect execution of that very delicate office, as perhaps no other memorialist could possess in an equal degree. For the interest of literature, and for the honour of many poets, whose memories have suffered from some biographers of a very different description, we may wish that the extensive series of poeti-

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cal biography had been frequently enriched by the memoirs of such remembrancers, as feel only the influence of tenderness and truth.—Some poets indeed of recent times have been happy in this most desirable advantage. The Scottish favourite of nature, the tender and impetuous Burns, has found in Dr. Currie an ingenuous, eloquent, affectionate biographer; and in a lady also (whose memoir of her friend the Bard has very properly annexed to his life) a zealous, and graceful advocate, singularly happy in vindicating his character from invigilous detraction. We may observe, to the honour of Scotland, that her national enthusiasm has for some years been very laudably exerted in cherishing the memory of her departed poets. But to return to the lady, who gave rise to this remark! The natural diffidence of her sex, uniting with extreme delicacy of health, induced her (eager as she is to promote the celebrity of her deceased relation) to shrink from the idea of submitting herself, as an author, to the formidable eye of the public. Her knowledge of the very cordial regard, with which Cowper has honoured me, as one of his most confidential friends, led her to request, that she might assign to me that arduous office, which she candidly confessed she had not the resolution to assume. She confided to my care such materials for the work in question, as her affinity to the deceased had thrown into her hands.—In receiving a collection of many private letters, and of several posthumous little poems, in the well-known characters of that beloved correspondent, at the sight of whose hand I have often exulted, I felt the blended emotions of melancholy regret, and of awful pleasure. Yes! I was pleased that these affecting papers were entrusted to my care, because some incidents induce me to believe, that if their revered author had been solicited to appoint a biographer for himself, he would have assigned to me this honourable task: yet honourable as I considered it, I was perfectly aware of the difficulties, and the dangers attending it: one danger indeed appeared to me of such a nature, as to require perpetual caution; as I advanced: I mean the danger of being led, in writing as the biographer of my friend, to speak infinitely too much of myself. To avoid the of-

fensive failing of egotism, I had resolved at first to make no inconsiderable sacrifice; and to suppress in his letters every particle of praise bestowed upon myself. I soon found it impossible to do so without injuring the tender and generous spirit of my friend. I have therefore suffered many expressions of his affectionate partiality towards me to appear, at the hazard of being censured for inordinate vanity.—To obviate such a censure, I will only say, that I have endeavoured to execute what I regard as a mournful duty, as if I were under the immediate and visible direction of the most pure, the most truly modest, and the most gracefully virtuous mind, that I had ever the happiness of knowing in the form of a manly friend. It is certainly my wish that these volumes may obtain the entire approbation of the world, but it is infinitely more my desire and ambition to render them exactly such, as I think most likely to gratify the conscious spirit of Cowper himself, in a superior existence.—The person who recommended it to his female relation to continue her exemplary regard to the poet by appearing as his biographer, advised her to relate the particulars of his life in the form of letters addressed to your lordship.—He cited, on the occasion, a striking passage from the memoirs of Gibbon, in which that great historian pays a just and a splendid compliment to one of the early English poets, who, in the tenderness, and purity of his heart, and in the vivid powers of description, may be thought to resemble Cowper.—The passage I allude to is this:—"The nobility of the Spencers has been illustrated and enriched by the trophies of Marlborough, but I exhort them to consider the Fairy Queen as the most precious jewel of their coronet." If this lively metaphor is just in every point of view, we may regard the task as a jewel of pre-eminent lustre in the coronet belonging to the noble family of Cowper. Under the influence of this idea allow me, my lord, to address to you such memoirs of your admirable relation, as my own intimacy with him, and the kindness of those who knew and loved him most truly, have enabled me to compose! I will tell you, with perfect sincerity, all my motives for addressing them to your lordship.—First I flatter myself it may be a pleasing,

and permit me to say, not an unuseful occupation to an ingenuous young nobleman, to trace the steps by which a retired man of the most diffident modesty, whose private virtues did honor to his name, arose to peculiar celebrity.—My second motive is, I own, of a more selfish nature, for I am persuaded, that in addressing my work to you, I give the public a satisfactory pledge for the authenticity of my materials.—I will not pretend to say, that I hold it in the power of any title, or affinity, to reflect an additional lustre on the memory of the departed poet: for I think so highly of poetical distinction, when that distinction is pre-eminently obtained by genius, piety, and benevolence, that all common honours appear to be eclipsed by a splendour more forcible, and extensive.—Great poets, my lord, and that I may speak of them, as they deserve, let me say, in the words of Horace,

Primum me illorum, dederim quibus  
esse poetas.  
Excerptum numero.

“Great poets have generally united in their destiny those extremes of good and evil, which Homer, their immortal president, assigns to the bard he describes; and which he exemplified himself in his own person.—Their lives have been frequently chequered by the darkest shades of calamity; but their personal infelicities are nobly compensated by the prevalence and the extent of their renown.—To set this in the most striking point of view, allow me to compare poetical celebrity with the fame acquired by the exertion of different mental powers in the highest department of civil life. The Lord Chancellors of England may be justly regarded among the personages of the modern world, peculiarly exalted by intellectual endowments: with two of these illustrious characters, the poet, whose life I have endeavoured to delineate, was in some measure connected; being related to one, the immediate ancestor of your Lordship, and being intimate, in early life, with a Chancellor of the present reign, whose elevation to that dignity, he has recorded in rhyme. Much respect is due to the legal names of Cowper, and of Thurlow. Knowledge, eloquence, and political importance,

conspired to aggrandize the men, who added those names to the list of English nobility: yet after the lapse of a few centuries, they will shine only like very distant constellations, merely visible in the vast expanse of history! But, at that time, the poet, of whom I speak, will continue to sparkle in the eyes of all men, like the radiant star of the evening, perpetually hailed by the voice of gratitude, affection, and delight. There is a principle of unperishable vitality (if I may use such an expression) in the compositions of Cowper; which must ensure to them in future ages, what we have seen them so happily acquire and maintain in the present—universal admiration, and love! His poetry is to the heart, and the fancy, what the moral Essays of Bacon are to the understanding, a never-cloying feast!

“As if increase of appetite had grown

“By what it fed on.”—

“Like them it comes ‘home to the business and bosom of every man;’ by possessing the rare and double talent to familiarise and endear the most awful subjects, and to dignify the most familiar, the poet naturally becomes a favourite with readers of every description. His works must interest every nation under heaven, where his sentiments are understood, and where the feelings of humanity prevail. Yet their author is eminently an Englishman, in the noblest sense of that honourable appellation.—He loved the constitution; he revered the religion of his country; he was tenderly and generously alive to her real interest and honour; and perhaps of her many admirable poets, not one has touched her foibles, and celebrated her perfections, with a spirit so truly filial. But I perceive, that I am in danger of going far beyond my design in this introductory letter, for it was my intention not to enter into the merits of his character here, but to inform you in what manner I wish to make that character display itself to my readers, as far as possible, in his own most interesting language. Perhaps no man ever possessed the powers of description in a higher degree, both in verse and prose. By weaving into the texture of these memoirs, an extensive selection of his private letters, and several of his posthumous poems, I trust,

that a faithful representation of him has been formed, where the most striking features will appear the work of his own inimitable hand. The result of the whole production will, I am confident, establish one most satisfactory truth, interesting to society in general, and to your Lordship in particular! the truth I mean is expressed in the final verse of an epitaph, which the hand of friendship inscribed to your excellent relation :

" His virtues form'd the magic of his song."

" May the affectionate zeal, with which I have endeavoured to render all the justice in my power to his variety of merit, atone for whatever deficiencies may be found in this imperfect attempt, and lead both your Lordship, and our country, to honour with some degree of approbation

" Your very faithful servant,

" WILLIAM HAYLEY."

Mr. Cowper was the son of a clergyman, and born at Berkhamstead, Nov. 19, 1731—he received his education at Westminster School, and was destined to the Law; but according to his own colloquial account "rambled from the thorny road of his austere patroness, jurisprudence, into the primrose paths of literature and poetry." An epitome of this great man's life is contained in the following sketch of himself.

" Speaking of his own early life, in a letter to Mr. Park (dated March 1792) Cowper says, with that extreme modesty, which was one of his most remarkable characteristics, ' From the age of twenty to thirty-three, I was occupied, or ought to have been in the study of the law; from thirty-three to sixty, I have spent my time in the country, where my reading has been only an apology for idleness, and where when I had not either a Magazine or a Review, I was sometimes a carpenter, at others, a bird-cage maker, or a gardener, or a drawer of landscapes. At fifty years of age I commenced an author;—It is a whim that has served me longest, and best, and will probably be my last.' p. 19. Of his early exercises in poetry,

take the two following; they are worthy of preservation :

" Few stanzas from an Ode written when he was very young, on reading Sir Charles Grandison.

" To rescue from the tyrant's sword  
The oppress'd;—unseen and unimplor'd,  
To cheer the face of woe;  
From lawless insult to defend  
An orphan's right... a fallen friend,  
And a forgiven foe;

These, these distinguish from the croud,  
And these alone, the great and good,  
The guardians of mankind;  
Whose bosoms with these virtues heave,  
O, with what matchless speed they leave  
The multitude behind!

Then ask ye from what cause on earth  
Virtues like these derive their birth?  
Derived from heaven alone!  
Full on that favour'd breast they shine,  
Where faith and resignation join  
To call the blessing down.

Such is that heart:—but while the muse  
Thy theme, O Richardson, pursues,  
Hence ebber spirits faint;  
She cannot reach, and would not wrong  
That subject for an angel's song,  
The hero and the saint." p. 20.

" Verses written at Bath.

" Fortune! I thank thee; gentle Goddess, thanks!  
Not that my muse, tho' bashful, shall deny  
She would have thank'd thee rather, hadst thou cast  
A treasure in her way; for neither meed  
Of early breakfast, to dispel the fumes,  
And bowel-racking pains of emptiness,  
Nor noon-tide feast, nor evening's cool repast,  
Hopes she from this, presumptuous, tho' perhaps  
The cobbler, leather-carving artist might.  
Nathless she thanks thee, and accepts thy boon,  
Whatever; not as erst the fabled cock,  
Vain-glorious fool! unknowing what he found,  
Spurn'd the rich gem thou gav'st him.  
Wherefore ah!  
Why not on me that favour (worthier sure!)  
Confer'dst thou Goddess? Thou art blind, thou say'st;  
Enough!—Thy blindness shall excuse the deed.

Nor does my muse no benefit exhale



From this thy scant indulgence!...even here  
Hints, worthy sage philosophy, are found;  
Illustrious hints, to moralize my song!  
This pond'rous heel, of perforated hide,  
Compact, with pegs indented, many a row,  
Haply (for such its massy form be-speaks)  
The weighty tread of some rude peasant clown  
Upbore: on this supported, oft he stretch'd,  
With uncouth strides, along the furrow'd glebe,  
Flatt'ning the stubborn clod, till cruel time,  
What will not cruel time? on a wry step,  
Séver'd the strict cohesion; when, alas!  
He who could erst with even, equal pace  
Pursue his destin'd way, with symmetry  
And some proportion form'd, now, on one side  
Cartail'd and maim'd, the sport of vagrant boys,  
Cursing his frail supporter, treacherous prop!  
With toilsome steps, and difficult, moves on.  
Thus fares it oft with other than the feet  
Of humble villager. .the statesman thus,  
Up the steep road where proud ambition leads,  
Aspiring first, uninterrupted winds  
His propitious way; nor fears miscarriage foul  
While policy prevails and friends prove true;  
But that support soon failing, by him left  
On whom he most depended, basely left,  
Betray'd, deserted, from his airy height  
Headlong he falls; and thro' the rest of life  
Drags the dull load of disappointment on." p. 23.

The means by which he quitted his profession of the law are thus stated by his biographer—

"Though extreme diffidence, and a tendency to despond, seemed early to preclude Cowper from the expectation of climbing to the splendid summit of the profession he had chosen, yet, by the interest of his family, he had prospects of emolument in a line of public life that appeared better suited to the modesty of his nature and to his moderate ambition.

"In his thirty-first year, he was nominated to the offices of reading clerk and clerk of the private commit-

tees in the house of lords; a situation the more desirable, as such an establishment might enable him to marry early in life; a measure to which he was doubly disposed by judgment and inclination. But the peculiarities of his wonderful mind rendered him unable to support the ordinary duties of his new office; for the idea of reading in public proved a source of torture to his tender and apprehensive spirit. An expedient was devised to promote his interest without wounding his feelings. Resigning his situation of reading-clerk, he was appointed clerk of the journals in the same house of parliament, with a hope, that his personal appearance in that assembly might not be required; but a parliamentary dispute made it necessary for him to appear at the bar of the house of lords, to entitle himself publickly to the office.

"Speaking of this important incident in a sketch, which he once formed himself, of passages in his early life, he expresses what he endured at the time in these remarkable words; 'they whose spirits are formed like mine, to whom a public exhibition of themselves is mortal poison, may have some idea of the horrors of my situation—others can have none.'

"His terrors on this occasion arose to such an astonishing height that they utterly overwhelmed his reason;—for although he had endeavoured to prepare himself for his public duty, by attending closely at the office for several months, to examine the parliamentary journals, his application was rendered useless by that excess of diffidence, which made him conceive that whatever knowledge he might previously acquire, it would all forsake him at the bar of the house. This distressing apprehension increased to such a degree, as the time for his appearance approached, that when the day, so anxiously dreaded, arrived, he was unable to make the experiment. The very friends who called on him, for the purpose of attending him to the house of lords, acquiesced in the cruel necessity of his relinquishing the prospect of a station so severely formidable to a frame of such singular sensibility.

"The conflict between the wishes of just affectionate ambition and the

terrors of diffidence so entirely overwhelmed his health and faculties, that after two learned and benevolent divines (Mr. John Cowper, his brother, and the celebrated Mr. Martin Madan, his first cousin) had vainly endeavoured to establish a lasting tranquillity in his mind, by friendly and religious conversation, it was found necessary to remove him to St. Alban's, where he resided a considerable time, under the care of that eminent physician, Dr. Cotton, a scholar and a poet, who added to many accomplishments a peculiar sweetness of manners, in very advanced life, when I had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with him.

"The misfortune of mental derangement is a topic of such awful delicacy, that I consider it as the duty of a biographer rather to sink, in tender silence, than to proclaim, with circumstantial and offensive temerity, the minute particulars of a calamity to which all human beings are exposed, and perhaps in proportion as they have received from nature those delightful, but dangerous, gifts, a heart of exquisite tenderness, and a mind of creative energy." p. 26.

His religious despondency being removed by Dr. Cotton, at St. Alban's, a circumstance, somewhat singular, took place, which determined the future completion of his life.

"In June, 1765, the reviving invalid removed to a private lodging in the town of Huntingdon, but Providence soon introduced him into a family which afforded him one of the most singular and valuable friends that ever watched an afflicted mortal in seasons of overwhelming adversity; that friend to whom the poet exclaims in the commencement of the Task;

"And witness, dear companion of my  
my walks,  
Whose arm, this twentieth winter, I  
perceive  
Fast lock'd in mine, with pleasure, such  
as love,  
Confirm'd by long experience of thy  
worth  
And well tried virtues, could alone in-  
spire;  
Witness a joy that thou hast doubled  
long!  
Thou know'st my praise of nature most  
sincere,  
And that my raptures are not conjured  
up

To serve occasions of poetic pomp,  
But genuine, and art partner of them all.

"These verses would be alone sufficient to make every poetical reader take a lively interest in the lady they describe, but these are far from being the only tribute which the gratitude of Cowper has paid to the endearing virtues of his female companion. More poetical memorials of her merit will be found in these volumes, and in verse so exquisite, that it may be questioned if the most passionate love ever gave rise to poetry more tender or more sublime.

"Yet, in this place, it appears proper to apprise the reader, that it was not love, in the common acceptation of the word, which inspired these admirable eulogies. The attachment of Cowper to Mrs. Unwin, the Mary of the poet! was an attachment perhaps unparalleled. Their domestic union, though not sanctioned by the common forms of life, was supported with perfect innocence, and endeared to them both, by their having struggled together through a series of sorrow. A spectator of sensibility, who had contemplated the uncommon tenderness of their attention, to the wants and infirmities of each other, in the decline of life, might have said of their singular attachment,

"L'amour n'a rien de si tendre,  
Ni l'amitié de si doux.

"As a connexion so extraordinary forms a striking feature in the history of the poet, the reader will probably be anxious to investigate its origin and progress.—It arose from the following little incident.

"The countenance and deportment of Cowper, though they indicated his native shyness, had yet very singular powers of attraction. On his first appearance in one of the churches at Huntingdon, he engaged the notice and respect of an amiable young man. William Cawthorne Unwin, then a student at Cambridge, who, having observed, after divine service, that the interesting stranger was taking a solitary turn under a row of trees, was irresistibly led to share his walk and to solicit his acquaintance.

"They were soon pleased with each other, and the intelligent youth, charmed with the acquisition of such a friend, was eager to communicate

the treasure to his parents, who had long resided in Huntingdon.

"Mr. Unwin, the father, had for some years been master of a free-school in the town; but, as he advanced in life, he quitted that laborious situation, and, settling in a large convenient house in the High-street, contented himself with a few domestic pupils, whom he instructed in classical literature.

"This worthy divine, who was now far advanced in years, had been lecturer to the two churches in Huntingdon, before he obtained, from his college at Cambridge, the living of Grimston. While he lived in expectation of this preferment, he had attached himself to a young lady of lively talents, and remarkably fond of reading. This lady, who, in the process of time, and by a series of singular events, became the friend and guardian of Cowper, was the daughter of Mr. Cawthorne, a draper in Ely. She was married to Mr. Unwin on his succeeding to the preferment that he expected from his college, and settled with him on his living of Grimston, but, not liking the situation and society of that sequestered scene, she prevailed on her husband to establish himself in the town of Huntingdon, where he was known and respected.

"They had resided there many years, and with their two only children, a son and a daughter, whom I remember to have noticed at Cambridge, in the year 1763, as a youth and damsel of countenances uncommonly pleasing, they formed a cheerful and social family, when the younger Unwin, described by Cowper, as

"A friend,  
Whose worth deserves the warmest lay  
That ever friendship penn'd,

presented to his parents the solitary stranger, on whose retirement he had benevolently intruded, and whose welfare he became more and more anxious to promote. An event highly pleasing and comfortable to Cowper soon followed this introduction; he was affectionately solicited by all the Unwins to relinquish his lonely lodging and become a part of their family.

"I am now arrived at that period, in the personal history of my friend,

when I am fortunately enabled to employ his own descriptive powers in recording the events and characters that particularly interested him, and in displaying the state of his mind at a remarkable season of his chequered life. The following are the most early letters of this affectionate writer, with which time and chance, with the kindness of his friends and relations, have afforded me for the advantage of adorning this work.

"Among his juvenile intimates and correspondents, he particularly regarded two gentlemen, who devoted themselves to different branches of the law, the present lord Thurlow and Joseph Hill, esq. whose name appears in the second volume of Cowper's poems, prefixed to a few verses of exquisite beauty; a brief epistle, that seems to have more of the genuine ease, spirit and moral gaiety of Horace, than any original epistle in the English language! From these two confidential associates of the poet, in his unclouded years, I expected materials for the display of his early genius; but in the torrent of busy and splendid life, which bore the first of them to a mighty distance from his less ambitious fellow-student of the Temple, the private letters and verses, that arose from their youthful intimacy, have perished.

"Mr. Hill has kindly favoured me with a very copious collection of Cowper's letters to himself, through a long period of time, and although many of them are of a nature not suited to publication, yet many others will illustrate and embellish these volumes. The steadiness and integrity of Mr. Hill's regard for a person so much sequestered from his sight, gives him a peculiar title to stand first among those whom Cowper has honoured by addressing to them his highly interesting and affectionate letters. Many of these, which I shall occasionally introduce in the parts of the narrative to which they belong, may tend to confirm a truth, not unpleasing to the majority of readers, that the temperate zone of moderate fortune, equally removed from high and low life, is most favourable to the permanence of friendship." p. 74.

Then follows a series of letters, highly interesting, the third of which we shall transcribe, because it gives

us a sketch of the *Unwin* family.

"To JOSEPH HILL, Esq.

"DEAR JOE, Oct. 25, 1765.

"I am afraid the month of October has proved rather unfavourable to the belle assemblée at Southampton, high winds and continual rains being bitter enemies to that agreeable lounge which you and I are equally fond of. I have very cordially betaken myself to my books and my fireside, and seldom leave them unless merely for exercise. I have added another family to the number of those I was acquainted with when you were here. Their name is Unwin—the most agreeable people imaginable; quite sociable, and as free from the ceremonious civility of country gentlefolks as any I ever met with. They treat me more like a near relation than a stranger, and their house is always open to me. The old gentleman carries me to Cambridge in his chaise; he is a man of learning and good sense, and as simple as parson Adams. His wife has a very uncommon understanding, has read much to excellent purpose, and is more polite than a duchess. The son, who belongs to Cambridge, is a most amiable young man, and the daughter quite of a piece with the rest of the family. They see but little company, which suits me exactly; go when I will, I find a house full of peace and cordiality in all its parts, and am sure to hear no scandal, but such discourse instead of it as we are all the better for. You remember Rousseau's description of an English morning; such are the mornings I spend with these good people, and the evenings differ from them in nothing, except that they are still more snug and quiet. Now I know them, I wonder that I liked Huntingdon so well before I knew them, and am apt to think, I should find every place disagreeable that had not an Unwin belonging to it.

"This incident convinces me of the truth of an observation I have often made, that when we circumscribe our estimate of all that is clever within the limits of our own acquaintance, which I at least have been always apt to do, we are guilty of a very uncharitable censure upon the rest of the world, and of a narrowness

of thinking disgraceful to ourselves. Wapping and Redriff may contain some of the most amiable persons living, and such as one would go to Wapping and Redriff to make acquaintance with. You remember Mr. Gray's stanza,

'Full many a gem of purest ray serene  
The deep untathom'd caves of ocean  
bear;  
Full many a rose is born to blush unseen,  
And waste its fragrance on the desert air.'

"Your's, dear Joe,

"WM. COWPER."

In the year 1767, the death of Mr. Unwin, owing to a fall from his horse, occasioned the removal of his widow and Mr. Cowper to Olney, in Buckinghamshire, where he got acquainted with Mr. Newton, at that time the curate of the parish. The manner he passed his life at Olney is thus described; with some beautiful lines on charity.

"His retirement was ennobled by many private acts of beneficence, and his exemplary virtue was such, that the opulent sometimes delighted to make him their almoner. In his sequestered life at Olney, he ministered abundantly to the wants of the poor, from a fund with which he was supplied by that model of extensive and unostentatious charity, the late John Thornton, esq. whose name he has immortalized in his poem on charity, still honouring his memory by an additional tribute to his virtues, in the following unpublished poem, written immediately on his decease, in the year 1790.

"Poets attempt the noblest task they can,  
Praising the Author of all good in man;  
And next commemorating worthies lost,  
The dead in whom that good abounded  
most.

Thee therefore of commercial fame,  
but more  
Fam'd for thy probity, from shore to  
shore,

Thee, Thornton, worthy in some page to  
shine

As honest, and more eloquent than mine,  
I mourn; or, since thrice happy thou  
must be,

The world, no longer thy abode, no thee;  
Thee to deplore were grief mis-spent in-  
deed,

It were to weep that goodness had its  
need,



That there is bliss prepar'd in yonder sky,  
And glory for the virtuous, when they die.

What pleasure can the miser's fondled  
board,  
Or spendthrift's prodigal excess, afford,  
Sweet as the privilege of healing woe  
Suffer'd by virtue, combating below?  
That privilege was thine; heaven gave  
thrice means  
To illumine with delight the saddest  
scenes,  
Till thy appearance chas'd the gloom,  
forlorn  
As midnight, and despairing of a morn.  
Thou hadst an industry in doing good  
Restless as his who toils and sweats for  
food.  
A vice in thee was the desire of wealth  
By rust imperishable, or by stealth.  
And if the genuine worth of gold depend  
On application to its noblest end,  
Thine had a value, in the scales of heaven,  
Surpassing all that mine or mint had giv-  
en:  
And tho' God made thee of a nature  
prone  
To distribution, boundless of thy own,  
And still, by motives of religious force,  
Impell'd thee more to that heroic course;  
Yet was thy liberality discreet,  
Nice in its choice, and of a temperate  
heat;  
And, though in act unwearied, secret  
still,  
As, in some solitude, the summer rill  
Refreshes, where it winds, the faded  
green,  
And cheers the drooping flowers unheard,  
unseen.

Such was thy charity; no sudden start,  
After long sleep of passion in the heart,  
But steadfast principle, and in its kind,  
Of close alliance with th' eternal mind;  
Trac'd easily to its true Source above,  
To him whose works bespeak his nature,  
love.  
Thy bounties all were christian, and I  
make  
This record of thee for the gospel's sake;  
That the incredulous themselves may see  
Its use and power exemplified in thee.

"This simple and sublime eulogy  
was perfectly merited, and among  
the happiest actions of this truly libe-  
ral man, we may reckon his furnish-  
ing to a character so reserved, and  
so retired as Cowper, the means of  
his enjoying the gratification of ac-  
tive and costly beneficence; a gratifi-  
cation in which the sequestered poet  
had nobly indulged himself before his

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acquaintance with Mr. Newton af-  
forded him an opportunity of being  
concerned in distributing the private,  
yet extensive, bounty of an opulent  
and exemplary merchant.

"Cowper, before he quitted St.  
Alban's, assumed the charge of a  
necessitous child, to extricate him  
from the perils of being educated by  
very profligate parents; he put him  
to school at Huntingdon, removed  
him, on his own removal, to Olney,  
and finally settled him as an apprentice  
in St. Alban's.

"The warm, benevolent, and  
cheerful enthusiasm of Mr. Newton  
induced his friend Cowper to partici-  
pate so abundantly in his devout oc-  
cupation, that the poet's time and  
thoughts were more and more en-  
grossed by religious pursuits; he  
wrote many hymns, and occasionally  
directed the prayers of the poor.  
Where the nerves are tender, and  
the imagination tremblingly alive,  
any little excess, in the exercise of  
the purest piety, may be attended  
with such perils to corporeal and men-  
tal health, as men of a more firm and  
hardy fibre would be far from appre-  
hending. Perhaps the life that Cow-  
per led, on his settling in Olney, had  
a tendency to encrease the morbid  
propensity of his frame, though it  
was a life of admirable sanctity."

In his society with Mr. Newton  
he composed sixty-eight hymns, and  
indeed was otherwise engaged in pro-  
moting the cause of virtue and piety;  
but a sore illness afflicted him, which  
is thus affectingly mentioned.

"Such fellowship in literary la-  
bour, for the noblest of purposes,  
must be delightful indeed, if attended  
with success, and, at all events, it is  
entitled to respect; yet it may be  
doubted if the intense zeal with which  
Cowper embarked in this fascinating  
pursuit, had not a dangerous ten-  
dency to undermine his very delicate  
health.

"Such an apprehension naturally  
arises from a recollection of what  
medical writers of great ability have  
said on the awful subject of mental  
derangement. Whenever the slight-  
est tendency to that misfortune ap-  
pears, it seems expedient to guard a  
tender spirit from the attractions of  
piety herself. So fearfully and won-  
derfully are we made, that man, in

all conditions, ought perhaps to pray that he never may be led to think of his Creator and of his Redeemer either too little or too much.

"But if the charitable and religious zeal of the poet led him into any excesses of devotion, injurious to the extreme delicacy of his nervous system, he is only the more entitled to admiration and to pity. Indeed his genius, his virtues, and his misfortunes, were calculated to excite those tender and temperate passions in their purest state and to the highest degree. It may be questioned if any mortal could be more sincerely beloved and revered than Cowper was, by those who were best acquainted with his private hours.

"The season was now arrived when the firm friendship of Mrs. Unwin was put to the severest of trials, and when her conduct was such as to deserve those rare rewards of grateful attention and tenderness which, when she herself became the victim of age and infirmity, she received from that exemplary being who considered himself indebted to her friendly vigilance for his life, and who never forgot an obligation when his mind was itself.

"In 1773, he sunk into such severe paroxysms of religious despondency, that he required an attendant of the most gentle, vigilant and inflexible spirit. Such an attendant he found in that faithful guardian whom he had professed to love as a mother, and who watched over him, during this long fit of depressive malady, extended through several years, with that perfect mixture of tenderness and fortitude, which constitutes the inestimable influence of maternal protection. I wish to pass rapidly over this calamitous period, and shall only observe, that nothing could surpass the sufferings of the patient or the care of his nurse. That meritorious care received from heaven the most delightful of rewards, in seeing the pure and powerful mind, to whose restoration it had contributed so much, not only gradually restored to the common enjoyments of life, but successively endowed with new and marvellous funds of diversified talents and courageous application.

"The spirit of Cowper emerged by slow degrees from its very deep dejection; and, before his mind was

sufficiently recovered to employ itself on literary composition, it sought, and found, much salutary amusement in educating a little group of tame hares. On his expressing a wish to divert himself by rearing a single leveret, the goodnature of his neighbours supplied him with three. The variety of their dispositions became a source of great entertainment to his compassionate and contemplative spirit. One of the trio he has celebrated in the *Task*, and a very animated minute account of this singular family humanized, and described most admirably by himself, in prose, appeared first in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and has been recently inserted in the second volume of his poems. These interesting animals had not only the honour of being cherished and celebrated by a poet, but the pencil has also contributed to their renown; and their portraits, engraved from a drawing presented to Cowper by a friend unknown, may serve as a little embellishment to this life of their singularly tender and benevolent protector.

"His three tame hares, Mrs. Unwin, and Mr. Newton, were, for a considerable time, the only companions of Cowper; but as Mr. Newton was removed to a distance from his afflicted friend, by preferment in London, to which he was presented by that liberal encourager of active piety, Mr. Thornton, the friendly divine, before he left Olney, in 1780, humanely triumphed over the strong reluctance of Cowper to see a stranger, and kindly introduced him to the regard and good offices of the Rev. Mr. Bull of Newport-Pagnell, who, from that time, considering it as a duty to visit the invalid once a fortnight, acquired by degrees his cordial and confidential esteem.

"The affectionate temper of Cowper inclined him particularly to exert his talents at the request of his friends; even in seasons when such exertion could hardly have been made without a painful degree of self-command.

"At the suggestion of Mr. Newton we have seen him writing a series of hymns; at the request of Mr. Bull he translated several spiritual songs from the mystical poetry of Madame de la Mothe Guyon, the tender and fanciful enthusiast of France, whose talents and misfortunes drew upon

her a long series of persecution from many acrimonious bigots, and secured to her the friendship of the mild and indulgent Fenelon!

"We shall perceive, as we advance, that the greater works of Cowper were also written at the express desire of persons whom he particularly regarded; and it may be remarked, to the honour of friendship, that he considered its influence as the happiest inspiration; or, to use his own expressive words,

"The poet's lyre, to fix his fame,  
Should be the poet's heart;  
Affection lights a brighter flame  
Than ever blaz'd by art.

"The poetry of Cowper is itself an admirable illustration of this maxim; and perhaps the maxim may point to the prime source of that uncommon force and felicity with which this most feeling poet commands the affection of his reader." p. 91.

He now, in his fiftieth year, published a volume of poems, of which take his own account.

#### "To Mr. COWPER.

Oct. 19, 1781.

"MY DEAR COUSIN,

"Your fear lest I should think you unworthy of my correspondence, on account of your delay to answer, may change sides now, and more properly belongs to me. It is long since I received your last, and yet I believe I can say truly, that not a post has gone by me, since the receipt of it, that has not reminded me of the debt I owe you for your obliging and unreserved communications both in prose and verse, especially for the latter, because I consider them as marks of your peculiar confidence. The truth is, I have been such a verse-maker myself, and so busy in preparing a volume for the press, which I imagine will make its appearance in the course of the winter, that I hardly had leisure to listen to the calls of any other engagement. It is however finished, and gone to the printer's, and I have nothing now to do with it, but to correct the sheets as they are sent to me, and consign it over to the judgment of the public. It is a bold undertaking at this time of day, when so many writers of the greatest abilities have gone before, who seem to have anticipated every

valuable subject, as well as all the graces of poetical embellishment, to step forth into the world in the character of a bard, especially when it is considered that luxury, idleness and vice have debauched the public taste, and that nothing hardly is welcome but childish fiction, or what has at least a tendency to excite a laugh. I thought however that I had stumbled upon some subjects that had never before been poetically treated, and upon some others to which I imagined it would not be difficult to give an air of novelty, by the manner of treating them. My sole drift is to be useful; a point which however I knew I should in vain aim at, unless I could be likewise entertaining. I have therefore fixed these two strings upon my bow, and, by the help of both, have done my best to send my arrow to the mark. My readers will hardly have begun to laugh before they will be called upon to correct that levity, and peruse me with a more serious air. As to the effect, I leave it alone in his hands who can alone produce it; neither prose nor verse can reform the manners of a dissolute age, much less can they inspire a sense of religious obligation, unless assisted and made efficacious by the power who superintends the truth he has vouchsafed to impart." p. 108.

Mr. Hayley concludes this his FIRST part of the biography with remarking, that the poems now sent forth into the world, did not reach to much celebrity, owing to his having censured some favourite pastimes and amusements with acrimony. This was occasioned by his secluded way of life, for he was a man of real benevolence and genuine piety.

(To be continued.)

XXII. JOURNAL of TRAVELS in parts of the late Austrian Low Countries, France, the Pays de Vaud and Tuscany, in 1787 and 1789. By Lockhart Muirhead, A. M. Librarian to the University of Glasgow. Octavo, p. 428. 7s. Longman and Rees,

THESE Travels made in 1787, embrace Brussels, Lausanne,

Lyons, Avignon, Bareges, Toulouse, Lyons, Marseilles and Pisa in Italy. In the preface we meet with the following explanatory paragraph.

"With a view to break uniformity of recital, and temper the dryness of circumstantial detail, I have, occasionally, hazarded a few reflections, without pursuing them to any length: for the business of the journalist, if I rightly conceive, is to invite the thoughts of others, not, obtrusively, to discuss his own.—Pictures of characters, from real life, and extracts from private correspondence might have enlarged the volume and gratified the curiosity of some. The task, too, would have been easy, but would it have been honourable? As I value, so I respect the mutual confidence of unrestrained and unsuspecting intercourse the grand charm of domestic society and of the intimacies of friendship.—Yet I have not scrupled to insert short notices of eminent men—of men eminent, at least, in their native districts, and who, however little known to fame, deserve to be commemorated. Tyrants and licensed butchers have had their panegyrists—let us not disdain the humble labours of the man of letters. Knowledge may be power—but true knowledge is also virtue, and may finally obtain the noble triumphs of benevolence and peace."

The manner in which the work is written, will appear from an extract respecting Lyons, which suffered so greatly by the French revolution.

"In Lyons many are the public objects deserving of notice, I merely hint at some of the most conspicuous. The rows of buildings, along the quays of the two rivers, though not magnificent, are well entitled to the epithet handsome. The *Place des Terreaux*, a stately square, is chiefly distinguished by the *hôtel de ville*, which connoisseurs reckon inferior only to the *Stadhous* of Amsterdam. It is in the form of an oblong square, with a wing 430 feet long on each side of the front. The middle of the latter is crowned with a cupola, and the great gate adorned with columns of the Ionic order. In the large hall is a series of paintings of the sovereigns of France. The ceiling, too, is covered with painting—but figures over head are never viewed to advantage, and therefore, had better never appear.

The two curious brazen tablets, exhibiting a fragment of the harangue pronounced by Claudius in the senate, when he moved that municipal privileges should be extended to his native city, are preserved in the vestibule. A copy of their contents may be found in Thicknesse's Tour. It is supposed that the whole speech was engraved as a token of the gratitude of the inhabitants. On the great stair-case is represented the destruction of Lyons by fire, a catastrophe which Seneca deplores with his usual quaintness—*una aux fuit inter urbem maximam et nullum*.

"The *place de belle cour* is a large and splendid square, with a grove on each side, and an admired equestrian statue of Louis XIV. in the centre. Along the sides of the pedestal are the figures of the Rhine and Saône, also in bronze.

"The cathedral, dedicated to St. John, is an ancient pile, better lighted than most Gothic edifices. The clock, originally constructed by Nicholas Lippius of Basil, 1598, and repaired and improved by Nourisson, an ingenious watchmaker of Lyons 1660, displays a cock which flaps his wings thrice and crows twice at every hour, an angel walking forth to salute the virgin, the Holy Ghost gliding from above, and God the Father bestowing benediction! The archbishop has the title of primate, with a revenue of 150,000 livres. The canons of St. John are counts of Lyons, must prove sixteen quarters of nobility, wear a cross of enamelled gold, surmounted with eight points and four coronets, and are little anxious to be reminded of the humble department of the early christians.

"When the abbé de Villeroi, who had made many unsuccessful attempts to become one of their number, was appointed by the king to the archbishopric, they waited upon him with the usual tribute of respectful compliments. While he received them with courtesy, he could not help remarking that the stone which the builders refused was become the head of the corner. Their spokesman instantly replied, this is the Lord's doing, it is marvelous in our eyes.

"The other religious buildings are fourteen parish churches, four priories, and twenty monasteries and nunneries.



"The hospitals and charity work-houses are said to contain nearly one sixth of the population. The hôtel-dieu, a princely building, with a superb dome, and the chief charity house, are supported by the produce of two ferry-boats which ply between the city and Dauphiny.

"The stated fare is but one sol; yet from 1200 to 1500 livres will be collected on a Sunday or holiday. I failed not to visit the hôtel-dieu, a theme of ceaseless admiration in France. The kindly and pious nursing of the *sœurs de la charité*, one of the few orders of nuns which humanity will respect, may soothe the bed of languishing; but the cleanliness and comfortable accommodation of the wards by no means correspond to the grandeur of this edifice. The patients lie two or three in a bed, and surrounded by coarse woollen curtains and offensive odours.

"The theatre, spacious and highly decorated, is said to surpass those of Paris. The present company of players are in favour with the public. I saw them perform once, and had no desire to see them again. It may be prejudice or want of taste, but French acting very seldom pleases me.

"The academy of Sciences, Belles Lettres, and Arts, established by letters patent 1758, preserves a taste for literature and philosophy in the gayest provincial town in France. A rage for routes and gaming is very prevalent among the higher ranks, and all are anxious to cultivate the graces and accommodations of polished life. Even the gentlemen sport their parasols in crossing the streets. The rigid moralist may declaim, and censure the growing effeminacy of the age; but the trim Lyonnais may remind him that the sun-screen was known in Persopolis of old, and has been found traced upon a Tuscan vase.

"The operative, and by far the largest class of citizens, are employed in the sedentary labours of the loom, in preparing those silks and silver stuffs, those laces and velvets, which are admired throughout Europe.

"The yearly quantity of raw silk imported, exclusive of 1200 bales from Languedoc and Provence, has been, for some time past, averaged at twenty millions of pounds weight. About ten years ago, there were 2000 silk stocking frames, which were

supposed to produce 1500 pairs a day, at the medium price of nine livres a pair. This branch began to flourish only in 1750, and already feels the baneful influence of fiscal interference. A special regulation, too, worthy of the dark ages, precludes the intervention of female hands. The silk weavers rise early, and work late; yet earn scanty wages, and often impair their health. Vaucanson's mode of twisting the silk is very generally adopted.

"The works in lace rival those of every country. From this department the women are not excluded; and, of the 20,000 individuals employed in embroidery, 6000 are females.

"Here fancy is racked and exhausted in conceiving new and elegant designs; and the pattern-drawers are often allowed the benefit of country recreation, to restore their jaded spirits.

"Pit-coal is now pretty generally used in Lyons. The smell is sensibly offensive to a stranger, and I am convinced that continental people do not affect delicacy when, on their arrival in England, they give it a place in their list of grievances.

"In the neighbourhood of Lyons are furnaces or kilns, in which coal-dust is reduced to coak (*charbon désouffré*.) In this state it is used not only as charcoal in the manufactories, but frequently as fuel in private families.

"The junction of the two rivers is, by no means, such a marvellous phenomenon as had been represented, two streams unite with some degree of agitation, and that is all. A single wave in the ocean is twenty times more sublime. But it is part of the French character to give importance to trifles, and always to boast in the superlative degree. Yet, if the sober observer find no unusual contention of billows, he will not fail to remark the contrast of slow and rapid progress, previous to the blending of the rivers; and the classical scholar will recall with satisfaction the *mitis Arar* of Lucan, and the *Rhodanus celer* of Tibullus. In more downward days Arar was designed Sangona, because stained with the blood of christians massacred in the amphitheatre. If this be the true etymology, it was unknown to Marcellinus, who mentions Sauconna as the provincial appellation. Its carp are reckoned the most delicious in France." p. 160.

This work imparts a good deal of information, respecting Europe, the most civilized portion of the world.

XXIII. SERMONS preached to a Country Congregation, to which are added a few Hints for Sermons, intended chiefly for the use of the Younger Clergy. By William Gilpin, A. M. Prebendary of Salisbury, &c. Vol. the 3d. 456 pages. 7s. Cadell and Davies.

THE public by means of the two former volumes, must be acquainted with the nature of these Sermons, we therefore only shall give out of the Hints for Sermons, the following specimen.

ACTS, II. 47.

*And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved.*

"This text is often brought as a proof of predestination. But if the context be examined, it will appear, that such as should be saved, were not to be saved by the absolute decree of God, but by continuing stedfast in the apostle's doctrine.

"The doctrines of predestination, election, and reprobation, which are all nearly connected, receive their chief force from the supposition, that the fore-knowledge of God cannot be reconciled with the freedom of man's will. That this is an awful, deep, and to us an incomprehensible subject may well be allowed. But are we not told, in various parts of scripture, of the deep things of God? Are we not told, that things which are impossible with man, are possible with God? Are we not forbidden to be wise above what is written?

"The predestinarian, in support of his opinion, quotes a number of texts, which seem to serve his purpose. All of them, however, either by the context, or some other mode of interpretation, admit of easy answers. One of the strongest is the apostle's celebrated allusion to the potter and his clay\*. This passage is taken from the eighteenth chapter of Jeremiah. By the prophetic sign of the potter and his clay, (according to the common mode of eastern in-

struction,) the prophet instructs the Jews, that God exercised the same power in receiving one nation, and rejecting another, as the potter does over his clay. And it is very remarkable, that the translators of our bible, who were not thought to be very averse to these doctrines, tell us in the contents of this chapter, that under the type of a potter is shewn God's absolute power in disposing of nations. Now, it is evident, that the apostle makes exactly this use of the allusion. He has not the least reference to individual, nor to a future state: but merely threatens the Jews with the completion of these prophecies which hung over them—the rejection of their nation, and the acceptance of the Gentiles.

"But the strongest appeal against this doctrine, is to the nature of the gospel, and to the whole tenor of scripture. What can be more absurd than to suppose God offers salvation to man in the gospel, which can be of no service to him? What can be more absurd, than for the scripture to exhort, to threaten, to encourage, and to promise, unless these modes of application mean to treat men like creatures, who have it in their power either to obey or transgress? Even on a supposition, that certain passages on this subject are not easily explained whether it is more natural to conclude that the whole scripture is founded on absurdity. or that a few texts are not clearly understood?" p. 293.

XXIV. AN EPITOME OF GEOGRAPHY, in three Parts, arranged after a new Manner, and enlivened by References to Ancient and Modern History, for the Use of Schools. Second Edition; with considerable Additions and Improvements. By JOHN EVANS, A. M. Master of a Seminary for a limited Number of Pupils, Pullin's Row, Islington. 2s. 6d. bound. 208 Pages. Symonds.

OF the plan of this little work, which was drawn up for the special use of the rising generation, an extract from the preface will afford some explanation.

\* Rom. xi. 21.

"The importance of geography, in a course of liberal education, is universally acknowledged. It has indeed been denominated one of the eyes of history, and is rendered of still greater utility by the commercial spirit of the age. Without some acquaintance therefore with this branch of knowledge, no individual can be pronounced an intelligent and respectable member of the community.

"It is a remark of the Messrs. Edgeworths on Education, a work of considerable merit, that "Something beside merely committing to memory is requisite to make an useful impression on the memory; and that the art of creating an interest in the study of geography depends upon the dexterity with which passing circumstances are seized by a preceptor in conversation." Such has been the plan after which this little volume is formed; and the success with which it was attended in his own seminary induced him to lay it before the public. Of the degree of that dexterity with which passing circumstances have been seized by the author, it is not his province to determine. He, however, can honestly say, that no pains have been spared for the improvement of this second edition. Though his obligations to Aikin's England—to Walker's Gazetteer—to Guthrie's Geography, together with similar publications, are gratefully acknowledged; yet, of various observations which have occurred in a long course of reading, he has availed himself with the utmost care and attention. Travels and voyages have always been the amusement of his leisure hours. Whatever defects therefore may be discerned in this Epitome, he entreats the exercise of that candour which he has experienced so liberally on former occasions."

(To be continued.)

**XXV. ARITHMETIC, adapted to different Classes of Learners, but more particularly to the Use of large Schools; in Three Parts: arranged in a new Manner, and enlivened with numerous original Examples on interesting Subjects. With an Appendix, containing Four Classes of Recapitulatory Exercises. By ROB. GOODACRE, Master of a Seminary in Nottingham. 12mo. 3s. bound. Ostell.**

THE usefulness of arithmetical productions for schools will not be disputed; and, in order that the reader may judge of the superior excellence to which this treatise lays claim, we shall insert the whole PREFACE.—The author having a large and respectable school at Nottingham, must have had considerable experience in this department of education.

"When a publication on a new subject makes its appearance, curiosity is excited; it is eagerly sought after and perused, and though the work may not answer the expectation it has raised, yet the praise of ingenuity and invention is given the author, for having opened a source, which, by the suggestions of his own mind, or the labours of others, may, in future, yield satisfaction, improvement, and delight. But when a fresh book, upon a subject which has been hackneyed for ages, is announced, it is natural to enquire, what improvements can this work contain? Is the writer aiming to turn the literary spirit of the age to his own private advantage? Or to force his name into publicity when nature has designed him for oblivion? These are not captious, but in the present state of literature, just and reasonable questions. Books of Arithmetic are numerous, and to add another to the number would be a real evil, unless it could be proved a real good. The writer of this work therefore esteems it a duty to give his reasons for this intrusion. And to avoid the ill-natured, pedantic mode of depreciating the works of his competitors, he will describe what appears to be a proper book on the subject for the use of schools, that by comparing this statement with the works already extant, the reasons for this publication may be easily discovered; and, if the statement be a good one, a test will be set up by which the present work may be tried.

"The whole ought to be written in a pure, plain, and easy style. The rules, if possible, should be composed without the use of one technical term, or uncommon phrase. On the one hand, they should not be so concise, and full of sentiment as to confuse the faculties of a child, nor, on the other, should they be so diffuse as to weary the attention of youth. They should also contain directions, not only for every example which the

writer may introduce into them, but, if possible, for every example which may be introduced into them in active life. The examples ought to be adapted to every different position of the rule to which they belong, but they should not encroach upon other rules. And, as many instances occur in life, wherein particular rules cannot be applied, such a collection of miscellaneous questions should be inserted as will lead youth into a train of performing any examples without the assistance of specific rules. There should also be a sufficient number of examples both under the rules, and in the miscellaneous collection to give fresh ones to the same youth should he through dullness or inattention require more than a common number. And for the use of large schools, where several persons are in the same rule at the same time, there should be as many as will supply the wants of eight or ten different persons. The subject of the examples is likewise a matter of importance, it should be written so as to attract the attention of youth; to convey a knowledge of the affairs of life: and to convince young persons that the science of arithmetic is no fiction, but a reality.

"In arithmetic, as in other sciences, there are many rules to be found, which, though capable of being defended as truths, are, nevertheless, not worth learning; because they are useless in active life, and the time they require may be devoted to something more substantial, rational and useful. These, if treated of at all, should not be made of the same consequence as those articles which occur every day, and in every occurrence. In short, a due attention should be paid to the comparative importance of each part to the size and expence of the book; and to the number of other sciences which it is necessary for a youth to learn in the short space of time which he is to remain at school.

"It may be useful to give some account of the work, though to enter into a minute detail would be unnecessary, because, as it is written under the influence of the sentiments just mentioned, it may be expected to approach as near them as the abilities of the writer would permit. Every thing which appeared to be of real utility is admitted. The rules are as short as appeared consistent with perspicuity; and though they may be longer here

than in some other works of the kind, yet, if carefully examined, there will be very few sentences found which do not bear a part in the general tendency. As it is a practice in many respectable seminaries to transcribe the rules, those cases and directions which appeared to be of less importance are printed in a smaller type, in order to give tutors an opportunity of rejecting them without trouble. This plan was suggested by the excellent publications on grammar by Mr. L. Murray. Some observations, likewise, tending to display some useful or curious property of the rule, or some difference or similarity between it and other rules, are also inserted in this type. In inserting them a due mean is attempted between an elaborate display of science which cannot be understood by a child, and the equally absurd extreme of explaining things, which never appeared difficult. The examples are written on subjects calculated to exhibit science in an alluring form, to impart some knowledge of the manners of life, and to give some silent exhortations to morality and discretion. As many trade phrases and uncommon names have been introduced into them as possible, in order to make youth acquainted with the method of spelling them; some of these may appear absurd, but they are so much adopted in life as to be beyond the power of the critic to exterminate them. In this, as well as in some other cases, strict propriety has been disregarded,

"To catch the manners living as they rise."

"In the present advanced state of the science of arithmetic new discoveries cannot be expected. The merits of this work, if it has any, must be sought in the distribution and treatment of its respective parts; considerable alterations from the plan of others are adopted, but as the reasons for many of them are given in the places where they are used, it is not necessary to mention them here. The tables are collected together in the form of an introduction, that they may be the more easily found, and that the work itself may be less complex. Several alterations, the result of inquiries amongst eminent tradesmen, are made in them. The number of English miles in a degree cannot be inserted with accuracy, because



of longitude the degree is ever varying from the Equator to the Pole. No example is solved as a specimen, nor are any of the answers inserted. Both these methods appear to the author a great evil in every school-book, because, in many instances, the answer will enable a youth to exhibit his sum without any solution, and in others, it, as well as the solution of the first example, may be used instead of the rule. In the arrangement a just distribution of the subject into its proper parts, and a regular climax from rule to rule has been carefully studied. The contents of the principal divisions will sufficiently explain their nature. If the writer's opinion of the last part be worth notice, the following useful experiment may tend to point out its truth or fallacy. Let a pupil be properly conducted through every rule in the first part, let him also perform a suitable selection of the miscellaneous questions and be made to understand their nature. With this knowledge, try whether he will, or will not, be able to perform any example attached to the rules in the third part without the assistance of those rules.

"It is to be regretted that school exercises are so different from those in business, that youth, on entering a counting-house, find a great part of their knowledge a burden to them, and have to learn fresh methods before they can fill their station properly. This frequently subjects the teacher to the reproach of having neglected his pupil, when the fact is, his attention has been directed to wrong objects. An attempt to remove this stigma, dictated a great part of this work, and particularly the Appendix.

"In some compositions the labours of the writer may be alleviated by referring to the works of poets and historians, but in writing this work general literature was of little use, the greater part being mere invention, which tended to deaden the powers of the mind. This is offered as an apology for errors which most probably will be found in the work. All that can now be said on this subject is, that strict attention shall be paid to such as may have escaped notice, should a second edition be required. It may not be improper to observe that some of the examples that ap-

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pear erroneous have a certain design in them, which may be found in the preface to the Key.

"Any useful observation from the works of others has been used without hesitation, though in no respect has any thing been servilely copied. Several of the questions were suggested by perusing "Butler's Arithmetical Questions, a work replete with amusement and information.

"This arithmetic, with its merits and defects, is now offered to the public without arrogance, or timidity. It boasts no patronage. It has solicited none, nor are sources of emolument expected from it. The author will think himself well rewarded, should the public have just reasons to conclude, that he has employed the talents bestowed on him by the great Author of Nature, in performing a real service to that important part of the community, the rising generation."

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XXVI. A DICTIONARY of the WONDERS of NATURE. Translated principally from the Works of A. S. S. DELAFOND, Professor of Physics at Bourges. With considerable Additions from Original Manuscripts. Including every Phenomenon in Nature, philosophically and physically explained. The whole alphabetically arranged: together with a Complete Index. 18mo. 5s. Hurst.

(Concluded from p. 126.)

ON account of the number of articles contained in our last, we could lay before our readers very little more than the Preface:—and now proceed with an interesting account of Earthquakes, &c.

"An account of the earthquake which happened at Lima, in the night of the 28th of October, 1756.

"The kingdoms of Peru and Chili are extremely subject to earthquakes; but, of all which have happened since the conquest made of those countries by the Spaniards, it may be truly affirmed that none ever broke out with such astonishing violence, or hath been attended with so vast a destruction as that which happened in this capital, where, undoubtedly, it had

its origin, and whence it was propagated an hundred leagues distance northwards, and as many more to the south, all along the sea coast. This surprising convulsion of the earth happened in the night of the 28th of October 1756, a day dedicated to St. Simon and St. Jude.

"According to the best regulated clocks and watches, this fatal catastrophe befel this place thirty minutes after ten at night, when the sun was in five degrees ten minutes of Scorpio, and the moon not much less of Taurus; so that those planets wanted very little of being in opposition, as they actually were in five hours and twenty-two minutes afterwards, viz. at three of the clock and fifty minutes on the 29th in the morning: an aspect which, by constant observation hath proved unfortunate in this climate, for, under its influence these convulsive kinds of agitations in the earth do most usually happen, and, though they often prove gentle enough, yet every now and then they strike terror into the natives, by their violent shocks. But, on this occasion, the destruction did not so much as give time for fright; for at one and the same instant almost the noise and the shock and the ruin were perceived together, so that in the space of four minutes, during which the greatest force of the earthquake lasted, some found themselves buried under the ruins of the falling houses, and others crushed to death in the streets, by the tumbling of walls, which, as they ran here and there, fell upon them. However, the major part of them happened to be preserved in the hollow places which the ruins left, or on the tops of the very ruins themselves, without knowing how they got up thither; for no person, at such a season, had time for deliberation; and, even supposing he had, there was no place of retreat in which to trust: the parts which seemed most firm sometimes proving the weakest; and, on the contrary, the weakest, at intervals, made the greatest resistance, and the general consternation was such that no one thought himself secure till he had made his escape out of the city.

The earth struck against the edifices with such violent percussions, that every shock beat down the greater part of them, and these tearing with them vast weights in their fall (espe-

cially the churches and high houses), completed the destruction of every thing they encountered, even of what the earth had spared. The shocks, although instantaneous, were yet successive; and, at intervals, men were transported from one place to another, which was the means of safety to some, while the utter impossibility of moving preserved others.

To elucidate this, it must be observed, that there are 3000 houses which make up 150 islands or square buildings (which are made by the streets crossing each other in straight lines), contained within the walls of the city. These, with the others near adjoining, and the shops, where tradesmen and poor people dwell, together with those in the suburb or borough of Lazarus, on the side of the river (to which there is a passage by the great bridge), amounting, in the whole, to a number sufficient to contain 60,000 persons (for so many they are computed to be constantly residing in this city); now, although scarce twenty houses were left standing, yet, by the most exact and diligent search that could be made, it does not appear from the lists taken of the dead that the numbers of them had amounted to much more than 1141 persons.

"Lima had arrived to as great a degree of perfection as a city situated at such a distance from the seat of empire, and discouraged by the continual dread of such calamities, was capable. For although the houses were but of moderate height, being confined to one story only, yet the streets were laid out with the exactest regularity, and adorned with all that beauty which a true symmetry could give; so that they were as agreeable to the sight as commodious to the inhabitants, and displayed as much elegance as if all the ornaments of the best architecture had been bestowed upon them. To this may be added the delightful appearance of many handsome fountains, for the supply of which the water was conveyed through subterraneous aqueducts, the towering height of the churches, and the structure of the convents and monasteries. It may be affirmed that the magnificence of these edifices, if it did not exceed, at least might rival the grandest fabrics of this kind in the whole world: for the beauty of their design, their profiles, their

cemeteries, the largeness of their naves, their cloisters and staircases were such as were no where surpassed for size or elegance.

"There were seventy-four churches, great and small, beside public chapels, and fourteen monasteries; and as many more hospitals, and infirmaries, in all which, the richness of the materials might vie with the perfection of the work, whether we consider the paintings and pictures, or the ornaments of lamps and vessels of silver, the exquisite works of gold and pearls with the precious stones in the custodiams, of the hosts, so called because in them is kept the consecrated water, and the crowns and jewels with which they adorn the images of their saints. The moveables and inside furniture of the principal houses, in pictures, prints, escritaires, looking-glasses, hangings, and other curiosities with which they abounded, together with the vast services of wrought-plate, had made it a repository of the most valuable things that could be procured from all parts; for the desire of gain had brought thither every thing that luxury or variety could fancy, in order to export part of its immense wealth in exchange.

"But all this beauteous perspective, which, with so much cost, had been the care of many years to bring to such perfection, was, in an instant, reduced to dust. No relation whatever is capable of conveying to the mind an idea of the horror with which the sight of these ruins struck the beholders: The very sufferers themselves were amazed at what they could not comprehend, and therefore a particular recital of the calamity is not only utterly inexplicable by words, but it is impossible even to form any notion of the horrible destruction which on all sides appeared to view.

*"The destruction of Callao by an earthquake and irruption of the sea."*

"Great indeed was the destruction of Lima, yet still some remains were left, some traces of its former magnificence. Not so as it fared with Callao, its port and garrison, where the very objects of the misfortune vanished quite out of sight. Not the least sign of its former figure was to be seen; on the contrary, vast heaps of sand gravel, occupying the spot of its former situation, it became a spacious strand, extending along the coast.

Some few towers, indeed, and the strength of its walls, endured awhile the whole force of the earthquake, and resisted the violence of its shocks; but scarcely had its poor inhabitants began to recover from their first fright which the dreadful ruin and devastation had occasioned them, when, suddenly, the sea began to swell, and swelling, rose to such a prodigious degree that, in falling from the height it had attained (although Callao stood above it on an eminence which, however imperceptible, yet continues still increasing all the way to Lima), it rushed furiously forward, and overflowed its ancient bounds with so vast a deluge that, foundering the greater part of the ships which were at anchor in the port, and elevating the rest above the height of the walls and towers, it drove them and left them on dry ground, far beyond the town; the same time it tore up from the foundation every thing that was in it of houses and buildings, excepting only the two grand gates, and here and there some small fragments of the walls themselves; which as registers of the calamity, are still to be seen among the ruins and the waters, a dreadful monument of what they were.

"In this raging flood were drowned all the inhabitants of the place, who at that time might amount to 5000 persons, of all ages, sexes, and conditions, according to the most exact calculation than can be made. Such of them as could lay hold of any pieces timber which the general wreck afforded, floated about for a considerable time, and kept themselves above the waves. But those fragments which offered them assistance in their distress, proved, by their multitude, the great occasion of their destruction; because, wanting room to move in, they were continually striking against each other, through the agitation of the water, and thus beating off those who had clung to them.

"By some of those who were so happy as to save themselves, amounting at most to 200, we have been informed, that the waves in their retreat, encountering one another, by means of the obstacles which the water met with at its reflux, surrounded thus the whole town, without leaving any means for preservation; and that, in the intervals when the violence of the inundation was a little abated by

the retiring of the sea, there were heard the most lamentable outcries of the wretched inhabitants in distress.

"Witnesses likewise of this account, and the shrieks that were heard, are those who, being on board the ships at the time when, by the great elevation of the sea, they were carried over the town, had the opportunity of escaping unhurt. It will not be difficult to conceive the dismal confusion and straits in which those miserable people found themselves, when we consider that they only preserved their lives from each present impetuous attack of the sea, in order to prolong the dreadful affliction which the apprehension of inevitably losing it at the return of the next overwhelming wave must infallibly have occasioned.

"There were twenty-three ships, great and small, at anchor in the port at the time of the earthquake; and, of these, four were stranded.

"The great vaults where the commodities brought from other parts (which supplied Lima, and made up a great part of its commerce,) used to be deposited, such as corn, tallow, jars of wine and brandies, cables, iron timber, tin, copper, and the like effects, were at this time well filled with them. The wealth of the town itself was likewise very considerable, and no small quantity of money was then circulating there. To these if we add the moveables, the ornaments of the churches, which abounded in curiosities of gold and silver; lastly, the apparatus of provisions and munitions of war belonging to his Majesty, which were kept in the royal store-houses and magazines, all these articles put together swell greatly the amount of the actual loss, without reckoning the demolition of the buildings, and the value of the quit rents.

"In that dismal night, while all the inhabitants of Callao perished, those of Lima were distracted with the apprehension of their own danger, and the horror of their minds occasioned by the frequent repetitions of the earthquake, which continued without intermission the whole night, and, by this means, it happened that the exact time of its duration is not determinable. But this horror was greatly increased by the news of the dreadful tragedy then acting at Callao, which far exceeded all the great earthquakes

that had before happened there; for although they were sometimes the occasion of floods in that garrison, yet those floods did no real damage to the town or the inhabitants, further than putting them in a fright. The truth of this dismal story was confirmed next morning, by the soldiers, who, by order of the viceroy, had been there for information.

"By this time also, many were continually arriving of such as were sent thither to make enquiry how things stood on the part of those who had dealings with the people of that place, or were concerned in the trade and cargoes of ships, as these persons were not present themselves at this scene of woe and destruction, they only brought an account of what they could collect from those who had saved their lives; and except some very few, were all fishermen and sailors. These, after having been driven about several times, as far as the island of St. Lawrence, more than two leagues distance from the port, found means to save themselves upon planks; some of them were accidentally cast upon the sea-shore, others upon that island, and thus preserved. But the excessive greatness of the calamity which had befallen Callao helped in some measure to mitigate the grief occasioned by the deplorable circumstances to which they were themselves reduced.

"Broad day at length appeared, and the light, which was never longed for with greater anxiety, instead of administering consolation increased the affliction, and brought a deeper gloom on the people, and distinctly discovered all that mighty ruin of which the confusion of their fright did not permit them to frame any just idea; and this calamity would probably have put a final end to every thing (their despair sinking them more, if possible, than the shock of the earthquake had done their city), had not the viceroy acted, on this momentous occasion, with resolution, vigilance and activity, for the public service. He appeared on horseback in all the streets, without any apprehension of his own danger, from the impending fragments of walls that were yet standing; and, after having passed the night without any regard to the safety of his own person, which he freely exposed wherever he judged his assist-



Once necessary, and taken a view of the ruins, and considered the whole, he returned to the great square with a resolution to dedicate himself to the laborious task of immediately dispatching all the provisionary orders which the nature of the case required.

"As the first thing that was to be dreaded was the want of corn, all that which was deposited in the vaults of Callao having been destroyed, the ovens also for baking bread likewise all demolished, and the conduits through which the water was conveyed to the mills all choked up, so that by these means this necessary relief was obstructed, he immediately ordered three soldiers of his guards to the governors of the adjacent districts, with orders to remit all the corn which should be found in their respective governments. He gave orders at the same time for assembling the bakers of the city together, to know what assistance they wanted to enable them to repair their ovens, and carry on their trade. To which purpose he commanded the water-bailiff and superintendent of the pipes to examine and repair all the aqueducts, conduits of the mills, and fountains of the city, that the course of the water might not be obstructed; he likewise caused it to be notified to the persons whose business it is to provide flesh-meat, (for they have no butchers, but the landed gentlemen take their turns to serve the city with live cattle for the slaughter), that they should continue to kill animals as they did before.

"His excellency likewise granted to the farmer of the reservoirs of ice as many horse-soldiers as he required, to enable him to procure sufficient hands to clear the roads by which that great refreshment is brought to the city, and which had been rendered quite impassable by the earthquake. In consequence of which good resolutions, the city was well supplied with provisions.

"Nor was his attention less to the relief of the impressed men, who were in the island of Callao condemned to the digging of stone in those quarries, for the works of the garrison, and he therefore ordered a number of small barks to be got ready, to transport them over to the continent, and to put them into a place of safety, all which was effectually executed. By this means also, were brought back

many of those who had saved themselves in this island from the disasters of Callao, and by this assistance they had an opportunity of curing bruises and hurts received from the repeated strokes of the waves and blows of the ruined pieces of wreck.

"Having thus provided for the relief of the living, his next care was to bestow burial on the bodies of those who lost their lives among the ruins of their city. For this purpose he caused the fraternity of the Order of Charity to be summoned together, and gave directions that with the assistance of the city aldermen, they should collect and convey the bodies to the several churches and convents, with whose principles he had already concerted their reception.

"The viceroy likewise used his utmost endeavours to prevent the loss of the royal property. For this purpose he ordered the captain of the arsenal of arms to cause the ruins thereof to be immediately cleared away; and, taking out the military weapons, to convey them to some other place of security. He likewise caused a survey to be made of the ships that were saved, and of the condition they were in, pursuant to which he was soon informed that the corn and tallow on board the *Succour* was saved, which would afford some supply to the city; and that the *St. Firmin* man of war was in such a situation that she must be took to pieces, it being impracticable otherwise to make any thing of her. He likewise issued a proclamation directing the superintendent of Callao, the royal officers in waiting at that garrison, the lieutenant-general of the artillery, and the captain of the arsenal of arms, to take a survey of all such stores and effects belonging to their respective branches of business as had been saved, and use proper means to collect and secure the same as part of the royal property, in conjunction with the town-major of the garrison, who was to attend upon them, with soldiers and labourers, hired for that purpose.

"A guard was likewise placed on the royal mint, which was entirely in ruins, and in which, at that time, there were very large quantities of gold and silver, belonging to the king and other persons. This wealth lying so much exposed was liable to be stolen, as the place was a considerable

distance from the royal treasury, which, being near the viceroy's house, was in less danger.

"They sent word to Callao, and the villages along its coasts, that the dead bodies of such as had been drowned by the inundation were continually driving to land, and that the sea had thrown up a great quantity of the goods and other valuable effects which had been sent adrift by the several wrecks and inundations of the city. They gave notice; also, that the shores were thronged with a great concourse of people, whom the desire of plunder had brought together. Upon which, his excellency gave orders to the corregidor to go with a great number of soldiers, and others, to the villages of Misaflores and Chorillos, in the jurisdiction of his command, there to chase all such dead bodies as he should meet with along the coast to be interred, and secure all the goods which the sea was continually casting up. The same orders were given to the town-major of Callao, and also to the tribunal of the consulate of merchants, directing them immediately to take the most proper measures to prevent the embezzlement of such effects, and to collect together all that could be found, in order to restore the same to the persons who should afterwards appear to be the proprietors, according to the rules of justice and laws of commerce; and, that none might presume to steal or plunder any of the effects which were so collected together, a proclamation was issued, making it death to purloin the least trifle belonging to them; and, to enforce this edict, two gibbets were immediately erected at Lima, and two others on the strand of Callao, that, by the sight of these engines of punishment, all evil-minded persons might be deterred from secreting such goods as they had picked up.

"Further, the viceroy augmented the number of soldiers in the two companies of horse and foot guards, and paid them in proportion, and appointed three several corps of these soldiers continually to patrol about the city, in order to prevent murders and robberies, which the desolate condition of the houses might facilitate, and which the necessitous circumstances of many might excite.

"By these provident and well-regulated dispositions, his excellency

very much mitigated the calamity, which, in cases of this nature, is usually rather increased by the confusion than by the evil itself; and, indeed nothing less than an exact obedience to his orders could have preserved the authority and respect due to him when engaged in quelling that impetuous tumult where-with the city was distracted by the false rumour which at once and the same time was spread, through every part of it, namely, that the sea was rising and advancing swiftly towards it, insomuch that the people ran in confused multitudes towards the mountains there to seek a place of safety.

"The hurry with which every one pushed forward was so irresistible, that even those who, from the circumstances of the report, which rendered it incredible, and the knowledge of much such another accident, which happened in the year 1686, did not believe it, suffered themselves however to be carried, or rather were impelled by the general torrent. The people were almost dead with the fright and fatigue and some of them actually died, notwithstanding the day-light, which yet remained, might have convinced them of their error; but the first report still prevailing, confirmed them in a resolution still to proceed.

"In truth, the consternation their minds were in, on account of the disaster at Callao, made their fright thus get the better of their reason; and so perplexed their thoughts, that they could not call to mind how high the city stood in respect to the sea: for, in the great square, the ground is elevated near 170 yards above the surface of the ocean, and still continues rising in the parts that lie towards the east; and, therefore, it was impossible such a thing could happen, in a place where the land lay so high above the sea.

"His excellency, considering the dangerous consequences that might attend this unlucky accident, mounted his horse, resolving to follow after and penetrate into the midst of the confused multitude, and no sooner was his presence seen among them than the uproar was quelled, and the tumultuous cries and shrieks of the people were hushed; and, what neither the strict relation of conjugal love, the natural tenderness for their children, nor the thoughts of abandoning their estates, could effect, the word of command of

one single man immediately brought about; every one halted on the spot, and beginning to perceive the whole delusion which they were incapable of observing before, through their fright, it was the most moving spectacle that could be. In their retreat back again, the separation of persons nearly related, and the moanings of mothers for their children, occasioned another scene of fresh confusion, which rendered them insensible of their fatigue and weariness. Thus he delivered the people out of a danger which might have proved almost as fatal as that of an inundation.

"Earthquakes are so frequent in Japan that the natives dread them no more than the Europeans do storms of thunder and lightning, and ridiculously imagine them to be caused by a huge whale creeping under the ground. Yet the shocks are sometimes so violent, and last so long, that whole cities are destroyed and many thousands of the inhabitants buried under the ruins. Particularly in the year 1703, an earthquake attended by a great fire which broke out at the same time, destroyed almost the whole city of Jedo, together with the King's palace and two thousand of the inhabitants."

**XXVII. JOURNAL of the late Campaign in Egypt; including descriptions of that Country, and of Gibraltar, Minorca, Malta, Marmarice, and Macri; with an Appendix; containing official Papers and Documents; by THOMAS WALSH, Captain in his Majesty's ninety-third Regiment of Foot, Aide-de-Camp to Major-General Sir Eyre Coote, K. B. and K. C. M. P. &c. illustrated by numerous Engravings of Antiquities, Views, Customs, Plans, Positions, &c. 4to. 414 pages. Cadell. 2l. 12s. 6d.**

THE importance of our expedition to, and conquest of Egypt, induces us to give many extracts from this superb and interesting work. Gibraltar is thus delineated.

"GIBRALTAR.

"Before I proceed with my ac-

count of the expedition, perhaps it will not be displeasing to the reader to find here a brief description of Gibraltar, the first place of rendezvous of our forces.

"The rock of Gibraltar is one thousand three hundred feet above the level of the sea, and is joined to Spain by an isthmus of low land, which widens progressively as it approaches the Spanish lines. These extend entirely across it, and are flanked by two forts, the principal of which is called St. Philip. The lines are defended likewise by a number of guns planted along them, and entrusted to the care of a garrison, lodged in miserable barracks. The space between the foot of the rock and these lines is known by the name of the Neutral Ground. Here the governor has a small field, which supplies him with a sufficient quantity of hay.

"The town of Gibraltar is situated at the foot of the rock opposite Algeiras, and is protected, on that side which appears most accessible, by the line-wall, the foot of which is washed by the sea. Along this wall is the king's bastion, by the fire from which the floating batteries were destroyed, on the 14th of September, 1782. In this bastion Lieutenant General Sir Robert Boyd, K. B., was interred, agreeably to his own request, in a tomb erected by himself. On the summit of the rock is the signal-house, commanding a very extensive prospect; and a new signal house was building by governor O'Hara, at the southern extremity of the rock, which affords a better view of the straits.

"The rock towards the town is a gradual descent, but on the Mediterranean side it is excessively steep, notwithstanding which, a long flight of steps has been made in the rock, reaching down to the sea, and called, from its situation, the Mediterranean stairs.

"The different galleys and lines called King's, Queen's, and Prince's Lines, St. George's Hall, &c. are works of uncommon ingenuity and extreme labour, and have added considerably to the natural strength of Gibraltar. I have however been told, that in case of siege they cannot be of much service; as, from the very

thick smoke, and the loud report of the guns in these cavities, it would, in a short time, become impossible for the artillery men to remain at their posts. These objections to their use seem very plausible, but what real weight they may possess I leave better informed persons to decide.

"New works are constantly carrying on in the fortress; but it is to be apprehended, that, by being thus continually made stronger, it may become weaker, as, in some time, the garrison cannot be sufficiently numerous to defend the works. Every regiment here, beside the daily working parties, has a fixed number of constant workmen, who are never seen by their corps, except for an hour or two at the Sunday parade.

"The town was paving, and contains some very excellent houses; among the best of which are the governor's, known by the name of the Convent, the lieutenant governor's, chief engineer's, commissioner's, general Wemys's, Mr. Cardosa's, and several others. There is one principal street leading from South Port to Water Port; all the others are extremely small and narrow. Charles the fifth's wall commences at South Port, and extends to the top of the rock, near the old signal-house, shutting in what is called the town.

"A very good road, skirted with trees, and parallel to which runs the aqueduct, reaches from the South Port to that part of Gibraltar called 'the South,' where there are barracks and an extensive naval hospital. These, with several other buildings, form what may be termed a second town. The garrison and inhabitants were very much distressed for water, owing to the want of rain the preceding season, and perhaps to the great quantity consumed by the ships of the expedition, many of which were allowed to water here. It is also said, that the grand parade, the sand of which is beaten down and levelled, is very prejudicial to the aqueduct, as the rain, which filters and oozes through the loose red sand, cannot penetrate through so hardened a surface. Gibraltar is entirely supplied with water from cisterns, which are filled in this manner by the rain. Three or four wells however were sinking in the rock, to procure a

supply of this necessary of life; and in the mean time the inhabitants were obliged to go for water to the neutral ground, where it is very bad and brackish, especially at the spring tides. Indeed it is so bad, and the scarcity is so great, that they sometimes pay five reals, near two shillings sterling, for a small keg of bitter water, which they buy from the soldiers.

"If water be scarce, wine, on the other hand, is in such abundance, and so cheap, that in no part of the world exist such repeated scenes of intoxication. It is indeed distressing to see whole bands of soldiers and sailors literally lying in the streets in the most disgusting state of inebriety. Drunkenness is no crime in the garrison, except in those who are on duty; and every man coming off a working party is ordered to be paid eightpence on the spot, which he immediately proceeds to spend in a kind of bad wine, called black-strap. Houses for the sale of this pernicious liquor are found at every step, and furnish no small part of the revenue.

"The situation of officers here, especially in time of war, is very melancholy; cooped up in a prison from which it is impossible to stir, and with no other amusement or resource but what they can find among themselves. I must however except the garrison library, which, to a mind susceptible or desirous of information, is an institution of the most useful and advantageous kind. A committee of officers is appointed, to whom the choice of the books is left; and in the selection none are admitted but the most approved productions. All interesting new publications are purchased, and likewise a regular succession of the best English papers. Every officer, on his arrival at Gibraltar, gives one week's pay to the fund, which constitutes him a subscriber, paying only the additional sum of four dollars annually. By means of this trifling contribution, the library is well supplied, and a new building is now erecting, better calculated for literary pursuits. This will be completed by the assistance of a separate subscription made a few years ago.

"In the time of peace the garrison is more fertile in amusement, an in-



terecourse being then permitted with the Spanish territories. Hence, too, the forces are amply and cheaply furnished with every thing they can want. But when war, destroying all friendly communication, cuts off these supplies, the coast of Barbary becomes the only resource; and it is a very precarious one; for when the plague rages there, which is so often the case, the most rigorous and strict measures are necessarily taken to prevent its introduction into the garrison, of which it would most undoubtedly prove the ruin. To guard against this dreadful malady, a lazaretto is established on the neutral ground, where quarantine is performed. In the event of war on the one side, and pestilence on the other, it often happens, as was the case when I was there, that the garrison is compelled to live entirely on salt provision; not having even the advantage or comfort of vegetables, which are scarce and very dear.

"During the summer, the climate is excessively hot, and the reflection of the sun from the rock is dreadful, and very distressing to the eyes. In winter the weather is often very cold, and the damp from the heavy rains so great, as to render fire necessary for two or three months of the year. Notwithstanding these inconveniences, the climate is far from being unhealthy.

"Lieutenant general O'Hara, who is since dead, and has been succeeded by his royal highness the duke of Kent, was governor, and lieutenant general Sir Thomas Trigge, K. B., lieutenant governor. The government house, a spacious and convenient building, was formerly a convent, when Gibraltar was in the possession of the Spaniards, and still retains the name. It enjoys the advantage of an excellent garden." p. 10.

*La Valette*, in Malta, is a principal place and therefore deserving of attention.

#### "LA VALETTE.

"*La Valette*, the seat of government, is a very regularly built town. Its principal streets are wide and straight, well paved, and furnished with good footpaths. The buildings are all of freestone, with which the island abounds; and the numerous superb edifices and hotels, formerly

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belonging to the knights of the order, give to *la Valette* a superiority over any town of equal size. The two palaces of the grandmaster, adjoining each other, are fine structures. Their interior seems to have been very magnificent, and still retains several marks of splendour, though they are much injured by dilapidation, and the greater part of the costly furniture has been taken away or destroyed. The council chamber is lined with the most beautiful gobelin tapestry, and the other apartments are adorned with paintings of the different actions and valiant exploits which occurred during the memorable siege of the island by the Turks. Adjoining to the palace, and communicating with it, is the armoury, which was found in the best possible state, on our taking possession of the place. It contains eighteen thousand stand of fire arms, independent of a variety of swords, spears, and other ancient weapons, all of which are very tastefully and neatly arranged.

"The churches are extremely numerous, and all very fine buildings. That of St. John, the patron of the order, is however far superior to the rest. The roof is most beautifully sculptured, and adorned with some good paintings. 'The grand altar,' says Brydone, 'is a piece of very curious and elegant marble; the pavement, in particular, is the richest in the world. It is composed entirely of sepulchral monuments (of persons belonging to the order) of the finest marbles, porphyry, and a variety of other valuable stones, admirably joined together at an incredible expense, and representing, in a kind of mosaic, the arms, insignia, &c. of the persons whose names they are intended to commemorate. In the magnificence of these and other monuments, the heirs of the grand masters, commanders, &c. have long vied with each other.' vol. 2. p. 226.

"Water, which in a climate like this, is so great a luxury, is found every where in abundance, and scarcely a street is without one fountain at least.

"The works round this town and the adjoining places, as *Floriana*, *Cottoniera*, and *Vittoriosa*, are perhaps the most extensive of any in the

world, and, as I before observed, extremely strong. They were however in many parts, and especially at Floriana, in a very ruinous state, owing to the little attention paid to them by the French, and to the very remiss administration of the late grand master, Hompesch, who is excessively disliked by the Maltese, and generally accused of having occasioned the overthrow of the order. These works are also nearly deprived of their guns, upwards of one hundred of the finest, and of the heaviest calibre, having been carried by the French to Egypt. A great number however still remain in the arsenals, and might be mounted on the ramparts with very little difficulty. The following particulars relative to the foundation and present state of the town of la Valette, may perhaps be acceptable to the reader.

"On the 18th of May, 1565, the Turkish fleet, having on board forty thousand men, appeared off Malta; and, on the 24th of the same month, this formidable armament opened its batteries against Fort St. Elmo, which was taken on the 25th of June following, notwithstanding the almost incredible efforts of the knights composing the garrison, every man of which was either killed or wounded.

"This did not however discourage the gallant la Valette, then grand master of the order. With a valour and constancy that have rendered his name for ever celebrated, he continued to resist and repel the reiterated attacks of his numerous enemies, and at length forced them to raise the siege on the 8th of September in the same year, after having left thirty thousand men under the walls.

"This almost unexampled bravery and perseverance of a handful of knights, when compared with the multitude of the assailants, almost surpassed credibility, and so damped the ardour of their inveterate enemies, as to secure the order for ever after from Turkish invasion.

"Previous to the siege, the principal residence of the order was at the Borgo, on the eastern side of the great harbour; but la Valette, having experienced its inconvenience, formed the resolution of building the town that now bears his name, the first stone of which he laid in 1566, immediately after the fatigues of the

glorious siege he had sustained. He died in 1568, before it was completed, and his successor, de Mont, finished it in May, 1571; on the 18th of which month, the order left the Borgo, and took up their residence in the new city. The kings of France, Spain, and Portugal, and likewise the pope, contributed very considerable sums toward the expense.

"La Valette is situate in latitude 35 deg. 54 min. north. It has three gates; the Porta Reale, towards Citra Vecchia and the interior; that of Marsa Muscet, leading from the harbour of this name; and that called la Marina, being the entrance to the town from the eastern and principal harbour. The chief street is the Strada Reale, extending from the Porta Reale to the castle of St. Elmo. The rest intersect each other at right angles, and are generally narrow, for the purpose of keeping out the sun. They are all paved, and, the town being principally built upon a hill, very low and easy steps are placed on either side of the streets, for the convenience of foot passengers.

"The tops of the houses are all flat terraces, from which the rain water is conducted by pipes into a cistern below, provided for the purpose. Every family is thus furnished with abundance of good water at home, and there are besides public reservoirs and fountains, placed in different parts of the town, which are supplied by an aqueduct commencing at Dier Chandal, in the southern part of the island, and upwards of nine English miles in length. This aqueduct was erected at a very considerable expense by the grand master de Wignacourt.

"The houses and edifices of every kind are built with a white stone, obtained from the quarries in the island. It is of a very soft nature, which renders it easily adapted to any purpose; and to this facility we are to ascribe the numerous ornaments with which all the architecture of the island abounds, as also the beautiful symmetry of the fortifications.

"There is a public library, which is well provided with books, both as to choice and number. It belonged to the order, and was increased by the private libraries of the knights, which, at their deaths, augmented

the general collection. The duplicate copies were sold, and the produce thence arising served to purchase such eligible books as it did not possess. The library contains likewise many objects of curiosity, as some fine statues, prints, and several valuable articles in natural history. No book is suffered to be taken out of the library, but seats and tables are provided for the use of those who frequent it. An immense and very beautiful building had lately been erected, to which the library was to have been transferred; this, however, has never been carried into execution, and the house is now converted into a vast assembly and coffee room.

"La Valette possesses an opera house, small indeed, but neat, though now much out of repair. Italy and Sicily supply it with very tolerable vocal performers, and it is a very agreeable entertainment for the garrison. It was excessively crowded every night by the officers of the expedition, to whom it was a great source of amusement. The price of admission is one shilling.

"Provision of every kind is here in the greatest abundance. Though we overran the island with troops, every thing was pretty reasonable, and no want was perceived. Sicily furnishes a sufficiency of cattle, and Malta and Gozo produce quantities of excellent fruit and vegetables. They possess a very great luxury here, which I never knew in any island equally hot; this is ice, which they import in very large quantities, and of the finest quality, from mount Etna. It is sometimes so abundant, that water is generally cooled with it. In any coffeehouse you can call for an ice cream with as much certainty as in a confectioner's shop in Bond-street.

"The trade carried on at this time was extremely brisk. The English factories from Naples, Leghorn, and Palermo, had taken refuge in this town, which was the emporium of the British trade in the Mediterranean, and whence English goods were smuggled into Italy, and thus found their way over the continent.

"Convents and religious houses are no where more numerous than in Malta. Priests and friars are met at every step, and still retain over the

minds of a superstitious people an unbounded and despotic sway.

Although la Valette is built with great care and regularity, yet it is sufficiently obvious that the chief attention has been directed to the construction of the fortifications. This in part accounts for their being perhaps the finest and best finished of any in Europe. Besides, the successors of la Valette, desirous of emulating his example, have constantly added to them; and in fact rendered the works so considerable and extensive, that several of them have become nearly useless, and would require, in case of siege, much too great a number of troops to defend them.

"The modes of conveyance used here are carriages without springs, made to contain two or four persons, and drawn by a single mule, driven by a man on foot, whose station is close to the vehicle, and who, sometimes at a trot, but most generally at a gallop, keeps pace with the animal. They are very clumsy, awkward carriages, and, as they pass over the rough pavement, shake the unfortunate passenger almost to pieces. A long string of these vehicles, numbered, always stands in the Strada Reale for hire. Drays also, drawn by one mule, are found in every part of the town, and are very useful. The mules in this island are very tall and strong; it is surprising how they go up and down the steep slippery streets, some of which are literally flights of steps, without ever stumbling.

"Civita, or Citta, Vecchia, the residence of the bishop, is about six miles distant from la Valette. It stands upon an eminence, and is surrounded with fortifications.

"It is impossible sufficiently to admire the cathedral of St. Paul, the tutelar saint of this island, on which he was wrecked. Its wonderful symmetry, its dome, and the fresh and highly coloured paintings, with which it is adorned, must strike the most incurious beholder. In this church is the greatest variety of marble I ever beheld: the lapis lazuli, the green and yellow antique, with several others, meet the eye in every direction. The most admirable effect is produced from the ingenious manner in which this different assortment

of marbles is disposed and combined.

"Without the town, in what is called the Rabatto, is the grotto of St. Paul. To this highly venerated spot you descend through numerous chapels, and at length come to a small space, scooped out of a soft and chalky kind of white earth, in the centre of which stands a marble statue of the saint; far inferior however to another very beautiful one of the same saint, placed in an adjoining chapel, and executed at Rome by Melchior Caffa, a native of Malta. People never leave this grotto without filling their pockets with pieces of St. Paul's stone, to which the superstitious inhabitants ascribe all possible powers; they also affirm, that the mass never decreases, whatever quantities are taken from it." p. 33.

Upon their arrival in Egypt, having landed with difficulty, the Battle was fought in which Sir Ralph Abercromby was killed. His death is thus mentioned.

"MARCH the 29th, 1801.

"This morning arrived the melancholy tidings of Sir Ralph Abercromby's decease. At eleven the preceding night death snatched from us this beloved commander. The wound which he received on the 21st, bringing on fever and mortification, occasioned this lamented event, and our valiant general was lost to us at the moment when we stood most in need of his assistance. The ball had entered the thigh very high up, and, taking a direction towards the groin, had lodged in the bone, whence it could not be extracted.

"In the action of the 13th of March, he had suffered a contusion in the thigh from a musquet ball, and had a horse killed under him. On the 21st, at the time when he received his death wound, he was in the very midst of the enemy, and personally engaged, with an officer of dragoons, who was at that moment shot by a corporal of the forty-second. Sir Ralph retained the officer's sword, which had passed between his arm and his side the instant before the officer fell.

"During the seven days which elapsed from the period of his being wounded till his death, the anguish and torture he endured must have

been extreme; yet not a groan, not a complaint, escaped his lips, and he continued to the last a bright example of patience and fortitude. He thought and talked of nothing else to all around him, but of the bravery and heroic conduct of the army, which he said he could not sufficiently admire.

"A man who has served his country in every quarter of the globe; who, as a commander, devotes to his troops an attention almost parental; as a soldier, shares in all their hardships and all their dangers; who, at an age when he might retire from the field crowned with glory, comes forth at the call of his country, a veteran in experience, youthful in ardour; whose life is a public blessing, his death a universal misfortune;—is beyond the hacknied phrase of panegyric. Such a man was Sir Ralph Abercromby. Dead to his country, his name will ever live in her recollection. Through his exertions, seconded by the co-operation of those he commanded, a nation, long oppressed by a sanguinary war, caught the first glimpse of an honourable peace; and and while a grateful people bent over the grave of their departed hero, they beheld the yet timid olive sheltering itself in the laurels which encircled his tomb." p. 110.

The *Interview with the grand vizier* is fully detailed.

"On the 24th, major general Hutchinson proceeded to wait on his highness the grand vizier. At the distance of about five miles from Bir-champs, he passed the Nile on a very excellent bridge of pontoons, thrown across for the purpose of establishing an easy communication between the two armies. Five miles further north brought him to the advanced Turkish camp, commanded by Tahir Pacha, the man who so gallantly opposed the French in the wood of date trees, at the battle of El Hanka.

"Beautiful horses, most splendidly caparisoned, had been ready for general Hutchinson and the Capoutan Pacha at the water's side, and on these they proceeded in a long procession to the vizier's tent. Here, in the midst of magnificence, and seated upon the most beautifully embroidered cushions, did they find his highness. Around him were all the great men and commanders of his



army. The famous Mamaluke chief, Ibrahim Bey, the Reis Effendi, Mahomet Pacha of Jerusalem, Tahir Pacha, and the Beer Bachis, were all present. Chairs were provided for the English officers, who alone were permitted to sit in the presence of this great man. After the usual routine of civility and salutations, coffee, sweatmeats, the never-omitted pipes, &c. the general, having taken his leave, retired to a very superb tent provided for him; and a guard of honour, composed of janissaries and one of the vizier's chief men, were stationed about his person.

"This was followed by a grand dinner, entirely in the Turkish style, at which the principal characters of the Ottoman empire were assembled. A short account of the most distinguished of these may perhaps be acceptable to the reader.

"The present vizier is about sixty-six years of age. He has had the misfortune to lose an eye, but has been able to retain his situation, the second in the empire, ever since the year 1799, notwithstanding the unfortunate battle of Heliopolis and the intrigues of his enemies. For this he is indebted, not so much to his own abilities, as to the powerful protection of the Caya (i. e. superintendent of the household) of the sultan's mother, who possesses the utmost influence at Constantinople. Still he has every thing to fear from the ascendancy of the Capoutan Pacha, who is rather his rival than his personal enemy. But Turkish rivalry cannot be dignified with the name of emulation, and there can be little doubt but the Pacha would rejoice in the disgrace of this minister.

"Though the vizier is totally unacquainted with European politics, and indeed with every kind of European knowledge, he is pretty well versed in oriental literature, particularly Persian. He is by no means a man of bright talents, yet he has had sufficient good sense to accomplish the very difficult task of keeping his army in some degree of subordination.

"One of the most prominent traits of his character is, an inclination to attribute every circumstance to the course of fate, which, whether it conduct to good or evil, he thinks irresistible, and any effort to stem its

torrent he considers as impotent, if not impious.

"Under this impression, when surrounded at Jaffa by Albanian revolvers, who, in his own tent, presenting their muskets, threatened him with death, if not immediately paid, his answer was, *Pecke*, i. e. very well. One of his greatest faults is, allowing too much influence to his favourites, who are all rapacious in the greatest degree, and who carry on their depredations in his name, relying on his partiality for their justification. One of his favourites, formerly his cook, is the present Pacha of Jerusalem, and is one of those supposed to have been concerned in the murder of general Kleber.

"The following anecdote will place his temper in its most amiable point of view. His highness was always, and is to this day, very fond of throwing a kind of inoffensive lance, called *gyritt*, at which he is very expert. This feat consists in riding up, full speed, against your adversary, and darting at him a slender staff of a hard heavy wood, about six or seven feet long, with all your force, which he does his utmost to avoid, by bending himself close over his horse's neck. The riders, as well as their horses, are wonderfully trained to this exercise.

"At one of these displays of adroitness, an attendant of the vizier, with whom he was playing, threw his *gyritt* at him, which unfortunately struck him full in the eye, and caused its total loss. The vizier, convinced that the stroke was unintentional, sent for the man, who, fearing the loss of his head, had absconded. With fear and trembling he obeyed the summons, when he was ordered a thousand gold sequins, accompanied with an injunction from the vizier, never again to appear in his sight, lest, being reminded of the cause of his misfortune, he might not at all times be able to command his temper.

"Notwithstanding the loss of his eye, his highness is a very good looking man of his age. His figure is prepossessing, and a venerable white beard, of which he takes the utmost care, gives him the appearance of a warrior of old.

"The Capoutan Pacha has displayed, in the present campaign at

least, his military qualifications, which have obtained him high renown in this country, but which dwindle away when put in competition with the talents of a European commander.

"An ambition spurning the idea of a rival, prodigal generosity, activity indefatigable, great penetration, a marked predilection for every thing European, and a desire to better the condition of every one immediately about him, are the best and most prominent features in his character; but to his education in the seraglio he owes the opposite and dark side of his character, profound dissimulation and a deep spirit of intrigue.

"He has great interest at Constantinople, derived from his own abilities and from his relationship to the sultan, one of whose sisters is his wife. He is violent in his hatred to the person who has sufficient penetration to develop his character, or his views; but, as his animosity increases, he puts on a semblance of friendship more attractive, and the mask of kindness never falls off till his enemy is enticed into the snare.

"Still he is the only man now among the Turks who possesses enlarged ideas in politics. He has been able to place the Turkish navy on a footing far more respectable than when he was put at its head; and there is not one Turkish commander, except himself, who has disciplined his troops with any degree of regularity. He has now under his orders two very good regiments, those of Abdallah and Soliman Aga, commanded indeed by Germans, but owing much of their regularity to his own superintendence.

"The Capoutan Pacha has the utmost contempt for the vizier, which he does not endeavour to conceal. He took great pains to keep his army separate, and always wished that the prowess of his troops should be compared with that of the vizier's forces. His pride told him that he could not lose by the comparison.

"The vivacity of his mind inclines him rather to the French than to the English, and should he succeed in his views of being appointed vizier, to which situation his talents and ambition lead him, his first act would probably be to consolidate an amicable treaty with France, and endeavour

to establish a regular and well disciplined army in the Turkish empire, by introducing European officers. He will probably succeed in many of his plans, unless continual fatigue, excess in opium, or intrigues, cut him off in the midst of his career.

"There is one person in whom he reposes the utmost confidence, and whom on all occasions he consults; this is Isaak Bey, a man of deep and low cunning, who has been at Paris, and is a complete Frenchman. He will most likely succeed his patron, the Capoutan Pacha, in his situation.

"Isaak Bey possesses extremely insinuating manners, and is a very abject flatterer. His stay in France having enlarged his ideas, he attempted by his writings to reform many parts of the Mahometan religion; at which, as may well be supposed, the Mufti took great offence, and got him proscribed. Isaak Bey saved himself by flight, and took refuge with his present master, who has granted him his full protection and friendship.

"The Reis Effendi, or principal secretary of the empire, is well known in England, where he was secretary to the Turkish embassy. His knowledge of European manners and politeness procured him the greatest advantages in the intercourse with our army. He is a great favourite of the grand vizier, over whom he has a powerful ascendancy. He possesses very good talents, is cunning, extremely avaricious, and supposed to favour the French, for whom he has a great predilection.

"The reason of the chief officers of the Ottoman empire, civil as well as military, accompanying the army, is, that the Porte, or court, is always supposed to be with it, and all orders of the sultan are deemed to be issued by him from his stirrup. Such was the case in former wars, when the conquering sultans commanded their armies in person." p. 149.

Some particulars of Alexandria shall be transcribed.

"Alexandria, once the capital of the commercial world, is now converted into a desolate heap of ruins. Its population was generally computed at seven or eight thousand souls; but this was previous to the late siege, during which it was very

materially diminished by famine and epidemic diseases.

"That part which bears the name of the New Town is little better than a common Turkish village, the only decent houses being those of the European consuls. All between this and the old Saracen walls is nothing more than heaps of rubbish of every kind. The remains of beautiful marble and granite pillars, mixed and confounded with the miserable ruins of Arab dwellings, present themselves at every step, and force upon the mind a melancholy comparison of the ancient splendour of the emporium of the world with its present degradation. The noble cisterns are in great part choked up with sand and rubbish, except those which were made use of by the French garrison. Round the Saracen towers is a wall, ill built and low, known by the name of the *Enceinte des Arabes*.

"South of the town, and nearly in a line with the Pharos, stands that grand piece of antiquity, Pompey's pillar. Nothing can exceed the beauty of this fine monument of ancient architecture; it is in the highest state of preservation, except on the north west quarter, which I imagine has suffered from the constant and violent winds blowing from that point the greater part of the year.

"The remains of a Greek inscription are plainly visible on the western face of the pedestal.

"The French have repaired the foundation supporting the pedestal, which had formerly been destroyed in part by the brutal rapacity of an Arab, who, imagining some treasure lay conceal'd under it, attempted, but happily in vain, to blow up this beautiful column. A cap of liberty was erected upon a pole on the top, having been placed there by the French a short time after their arrival in the country.

"Close to the sea side, south by east of the Pharos, is Cleopatra's needle. Near it lies its fellow obelisk, which had always been supposed to be broken, part of it being buried in the sand; but the French cleared away the ground all around it, and found it to be perfectly whole. It is exactly the same as the one now standing, both as to size, and the hieroglyphics with which it is covered. Those on

the north and on the west faces of the obelisk standing are in a very good state of preservation; those on the other sides are nearly obliterated." p. 225.

Cairo is also entitled to our notice, which our journalist also visited.

"About three o'clock in the morning of the 9th, we anchored at Gizeh, opposite to Cairo. At six we waited on the British Commandant, colonel Ramsay, at whose house, formerly that of Mourad Bey, it was determined we should remain during our stay.

"At Gizeh the French had their principal foundery. When we took possession of the place, we found it filled with Turkish ordnance of all sizes and descriptions; these were intended to be melted down, and to be converted into shot and shells, of which they were in the greatest want. The fortifications of Gizeh were very inconsiderable, consisting only in a low wall, which surrounded the town, and had been built by Mourad Bey, with some redoubts added by the French, and disposed at intervals, about sixty yards in front of the wall.

"Having provided ourselves with horses, we left Gizeh at ten o'clock, and repaired to colonel Holloway's, of the engineers, at Cairo. This officer had been a considerable time with the grand vizier's army, having accompanied general Koelher to Constantinople, in 1798. He was a particular favourite of his highness, who reposed very great confidence in him.

"General Coote having sent his letters of introduction to the vizier, with the intimation of our arrival, received a very polite message in answer, purporting, that his highness would receive us at three o'clock that day.

"Accordingly, at the hour appointed, we waited on his highness, when, after the usual ceremonies of coffee, pipes and sherbet, the more distinguished ones of rosewater to wash the hands, and frankincense, were introduced. The vizier treated us during the whole of our visit with the most marked attention and kindness. He insisted upon our accompanying him the next day to a grand review of his troops, and afterwards dining with him. In short, nothing could surpass his civility. During

our stay he repeatedly expressed his warm approbation of the conduct of our troops, and how much he himself and his government were indebted to them for their exertions.

"After taking our leave we visited the greater part of Cairo, which is a long, extensive, straggling, and miserable town, the houses all extremely high, but ill built. The streets are very irregular, and so narrow, that it is difficult for two horsemen to ride through them abreast. The reason for not building the streets wider, is, to exclude as much as possible the sun; which, in consequence, unless in its meridian, never visits them. But if this be an advantage, they are subject also to many great inconveniences, especially when the plague rages.

"The population of Cairo is computed at upwards of three hundred thousand souls. But its streets, owing to their narrowness, are so crowded, that it appears much more populous than it is in reality.

"The shops, which line the streets, are very wretched; and in them you see the indolent tradesman sitting squat upon the counter, and smoking his pipe. The mosques are fine and very numerous. The square of Esbekier is the largest and finest in the city, and in it all the beys and rich people formerly resided.\* During the inundation of the Nile, this square is covered with water, on which the great have their barges and pleasure boats.

"The insides of the houses of the beys, and other great people, are very magnificent. The walls are decorated with paintings, coarsely executed it is true, and with passages extracted from the Koran. The floors of the principal apartments are of marble. In the centre of these is generally a fountain of water, which shoots up

"\* The French had greatly adorned this square by planting it with trees; they had also planted trees on each side of the road from Boulac to Cairo, as well as of that from fort Ibrahim to the city; but when I was at Cairo, which was less than two months after the French had quitted the place, more than three fourths of them were rooted up and destroyed: so averse were the people in general to any improvement that came from the hand of a christian.

through numerous spouts, and falls back into the basin. This renders the rooms very pleasant, and diffuses through them a great degree of refreshing coolness; round these fountains the beys, reclining upon cushions, smoke their pipes. Elevated above the floor are galleries, enclosed with very close lattice work, and communicating with the Harem. Behind these their women, entirely hidden from their view, are enabled to see and hear without any danger of being seen.

"At present the greater part of these dwellings are falling into decay, from having been so long uninhabited and neglected, in consequence of the flight of their owners. In the square of Esbekier I visited the house in which Bonaparte resided, and saw the fatal spot where Kleber was assassinated." p. 241.

The *visit to the Pyramids* shall be presented to the reader.

"Having procured boats and every other necessary article for the excursion, we left Gizeh immediately after breakfast to visit the pyramids. Our way to them was through a canal, filled by the overflowing of the Nile; and the day being extremely fine and pleasant rendered the jaunt very agreeable. A little after ten o'clock we left the boats, having been about two hours on the way. The distance we calculated at nearly twelve miles.

"The country was almost all under water, and from the spot where we landed we had about a mile to walk, over a heavy sand, to the great pyramid. As we approached these most ancient and astonishing of all antiquities, we were surprised not to find their bulk increase in appearance; and what was still more extraordinary, when at the distance of two hundred yards, the stones with which they are built seemed to our eyes no larger than common bricks; but when we arrived at the foot of the first pyramid, which is the largest, we were struck with astonishment, and could not but wonder at the immense labour and expense with which these admirable monuments must have been raised. Those stones, which at so short a distance had appeared so small, were now transformed into masses four feet square, and two in height. To what this illusion is to be ascribed,



whether to the power of perspective, or to the manner in which these structures are built, each course of stones receding from that beneath it, till they arrive at the top, I am at a loss to conceive.

"Several large heaps of stone, of the same kind and size as those used in the building of the pyramids, are collected around them. This stone is of a soft nature, and in appearance not unlike chalk.

"The construction of these massive monuments, built with all the proportions necessary to ensure their durability, though not a masterpiece of elegance, is surely one of art; as neither the force of winds and storms, the gradual decay of time, nor the spoiling hand of man, has hitherto been able to shake them. Even at this remote period from the time when they were erected, the toil and cost, that must attend their demolition, would be incredible.

From the pyramids we proceeded to that monstrous figure the Sphinx. The face of it has been most savagely mutilated, and only retains enough of its former features, to allow you to guess what it once was. The French, having cleaned the sand all around the foundation, have enabled us to ascertain, that it never had a body connected to it, as was generally imagined." p. 248—250.

We shall close with extracting an article replete with information.—

*"A few concluding Observations upon the Nile, the Climate, and Population of Egypt."*

"The Nile is undoubtedly the most astonishing river in the world: without it Egypt, surrounded on every side with natural obstacles, separated on the east from Syria by moving sands, skirted on the south and west by immense tracts of deserts, would be as uninhabitable as the dreary wastes of Lybia. It is navigable for boats of considerable burden as far as the cataracts, and is a very convenient mode of communication from one extremity of the country to the other. The prevailing winds generally serve to sail up; and in coming down, the current is of the greatest advantage, especially during the overflowing, when a large germe will go down from Cairo to Rosetta a distance of 160 miles, in less than

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forty hours, without sail or oar to assist its way.

"It is the great and indeed the only source of wealth to the country, and is the most pleasant and expeditious way of travelling, particularly when it is considered that there are no inns in the country, except a few miserable caravanserais, disgusting to an European, where you must sleep upon dirty carpets covered with vermin, lying promiscuously with Turks, Arabs, &c.

"Only that part of the country which the Nile overflows is inhabited, as is clearly perceptible by the narrow and contracted space of cultivation on each border, and by the numerous villages built only along its banks.

"The annual rising and falling of this river, and their causes, have been so often and so correctly stated by able travellers, that it would be as presumptuous as unnecessary to say any thing concerning them. As the waters retire, they leave behind them a rich black mould, very thick, and equal to the richest soil, which is sown as soon as left dry. The chief productions that I remarked along the banks were rice, wheat, barley, Indian corn, pumpkins, cucumbers, and fields of the finest and most luxuriant clover.

"The principal fruits throughout Egypt are the musk and water melons, small apricots, grapes, oranges, pomegranites, citrons, a few plantains about Rosetta, and millions of dates. The last mentioned fruit is the potatoe of this country, the poor people living almost entirely upon it.

"The date tree grows in large woods, thrives almost every where, and a sandy soil agrees perfectly well with it. The peninsula of Aboukir, at our arrival, and great part of the sandy country between Aboukir and Rosetta were covered with them. Numerous advantages are derived from this tree, every part of which is made to serve some purpose: the fruit is very wholesome and palatable food, and the French made very tolerable brandy from it; the leaves are converted into ropes for the gernes and other boats; the trunk of the tree makes bad fuel, and is used also in the construction of their wretched houses. Wherever the date tree is

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found, as far as our experience informed us, water may be procured by sinking wells.

"Although the Nile is not a rapid river, yet during the time of its overflowing, the force of the current is amazingly great. When it is at its height, the water is of a reddish brown colour, and nearly as thick as mud, so that it is almost impossible to make use of it for drinking before it has been purified. For this purpose large jars are filled with the water, the inside of them having been previously rubbed round with bitter almonds or beans, and in these it will very soon settle and become quite clear. Women, very carefully muffled up, are constantly seen on the banks filling these jars with water.

"At Rosetta and Cairo are sold abundance of earthen bottles named *alkarras*, which are very useful for cooling the water. These are made of white clay, and baked in the sun: they are so porous that the water is constantly exuding through them, and by its evaporation from the external surface, produces such a degree of cold as to render the water within of a very grateful temperature. All our fleet on the coast made use of no other water than that of the Nile, which was found extremely fit for every purpose.

"Crocodiles are far less numerous in Egypt than is commonly imagined. None are to be found in Lower Egypt, it very seldom happening that any came down as far as Cairo. As you go up the Nile, it is said they become more common. The French had one at Cairo, brought from Upper Egypt, which was 18 feet long.

"There is no country in the world where the climate is more regular than in Egypt. The sky is almost always beautifully clear and serene, and after seven or eight in the morning not a single fleeting cloud is seen to intercept the burning rays of the sun.

"It seldom or never rains in the interior parts; but on the sea-coast and near Alexandria, it rains frequently in the winter time: the showers however are short, though heavy, and are immediately succeeded by a fine blue sky. Soon after our landing we had several smart showers, which, while they lasted, fell with

great force upon our tents; and in the night of the 28th of April, we had a very severe thunder-storm, accompanied with a great deal of rain.

"But if it do not rain often, the heavy dews which fall during the night, make up in part for the want of moisture. We always perceived the effect of them in the morning, when, as soon as the sun appeared above the horizon, our tents began to smoke as copiously as if a great quantity of rain had fallen. Many a time, in a common soldier's round tent, have I felt the small drizzle of the dew piercing through the canvass.

"The nights in March, April, and May, we found very damp and chilly, and no covering was then thought too much.

"During the whole campaign, we enjoyed the greatest advantage from the very clear and bright nights; and we were seldom deprived of the benefit of a fine moon, here scarcely ever overclouded, and shining with extreme lustre.

"The heat during the months of May, June, July, and August, we found generally, near Alexandria, to vary between 80 and 85 degrees, and it rarely exceeded 88. A cool refreshing breeze sprang up regularly about seven in the morning, which near the sea was excessively pleasant, and rendered the heat very supportable, that would otherwise have been intense.

"During our stay in Egypt, we had occasion to observe the constancy of the winds which prevail on the coast. In April, May, June, and July, they blew from the north-west; in August and September, they still kept in the same quarter, only varying occasionally to due north. In the day time we almost always enjoyed a fresh breeze, which toward sunset lulled gradually till it sunk into a calm. To this unquestionably we must ascribe, in great measure, the health of the troops before Alexandria; for it certainly purified as well as cooled the air, and thus removed two powerful causes of sickness and disease.

"Egypt is inhabited by several races of people, all differing greatly in their manners, customs, and religion. Of these the first are the Mamelukes, who, though they constitute

but a very inconsiderable part of the population, are the rulers and proprietors of the country, and on them all the rest are more or less dependant.

Next are the Bedoween Arabs, constant wanderers in the desert, never inhabiting the same place for any length of time, and living by continual pillage and warfare.

"They form no general community among themselves, each tribe having its own cheik, or chief, to whom the greatest deference and the strictest obedience are paid. From these numerous petty societies, and their divided interests, arise never ending quarrels and dissensions. Hospitality is among them a duty, of which they are most sacred observers; and an Arab in danger from any other persons, will not hesitate to throw himself into the power of his professed enemy, secure of meeting with safety and protection. They are however false, dissembling, revengeful, and cunning; and, though actually brave, will not scruple, in a cowardly manner, to assassinate their enemy.

"The Bedoweens are all furnished with horses, capable of undergoing the greatest fatigue in their excursions over the deserts, during which their food is very scanty, and water, always scarce, is sometimes not to be found. Their dress is very light, consisting of nothing more than a loose frock and turban; their weapons are a long gun and a dagger.

"The third class are the Fellahs, who are the farmers and husbandmen of the country. They inhabit the villages, and cultivate the lands, all of which are the property of the Mamelukes, by whom these people are kept in the most abject slavery.

"When a Fellah has succeeded in amassing a small sum, by dint of economy and hard labour, he dares not make use of it, and is afraid to let it appear by any improvement in his lands or way of living, as it would most undoubtedly expose him to the extortions and pillage of his proprietor, or endanger his life by the rapacity of his neighbours. Hence it follows, that when this is the case, the money \* is buried under ground, and

\* The current coins in Egypt are those of Turkey, and Spanish dollars, at the

the wretched Fellah, like the miser of more civilized countries, has no other satisfaction but that of knowing where his riches are concealed. At his decease, the secret commonly dies with him, and the money is lost—thus considerable sums disappear, and never again return into circulation.

"The tyrannical proprietors of the lands and villages exact the greater part of the produce, and by repeated impositions, contributions, &c. often oblige the Fellahs to abandon their houses, and take refuge among the inhabitants of the desert. Numerous villages, totally deserted, are seen all over Egypt, sad examples of these vexations.

"The rest of the villages are striking pictures of the misery of their inhabitants. The houses are the most wretched mud hovels possible to be conceived, without windows, and with scarcely a door. Most of them are built upon eminences, to secure them from the overflowing of the Nile; and many of them enclosed by a mud wall, flanked with small towers, to defend them from the predatory incursions of the Bedoween Arabs. These form citadels, into which they retire with their cattle and all their goods; and in them they are as secure from the enemy they dread, as in the most impregnable fortress.

"Few of the villages are without a public school, where the children are instructed in reading the Koran. This is the only book they have, and as the art of printing is scarcely known in the Turkish dominions, their copies are always manuscripts.

"The last are the Cophts, or christian inhabitants of Egypt, who are of the Greek communion. The Coptic patriarch is the head of the church of Abyssinia, whither he sends a bishop, as his deputy, to govern the clergy of that country.

"Great numbers of the Cophts inhabit the towns, where, on account

rate of 150 parats to the dollar. The ignorance of the people in the Turkish dominions in general is so great, that it is with the utmost difficulty they can be prevailed on to receive in payment any European coin, either of gold or silver, except the Spanish dollar, and its subdivisions, and these only when stamped with the two pillars.

of their possessing superior knowledge to any other class, though the sphere of their acquirements is very confined, they are employed as agents by the chiefs and principal people of the country.

In Upper Egypt, where they are very numerous, they inhabit the villages, and cultivate the lands, in the same manner as the Fellahs in Lower Egypt.

"Besides these four classes, which constitute the chief population of the country, there are several others, as Turks, Greeks, Jews, &c. that are settled in the towns, and follow different employments.

"The number of inhabitants of all descriptions, though no exact enumeration has ever been made, nor indeed is any thing like it practicable, is generally estimated at about three millions." p. 251—261.

We need offer no apology for the number of our extracts on so interesting a subject; and of all the volumes we have perused respecting our expedition into Egypt, this is assuredly, on account of the neatness of its style, and the number and beauty of its plates, well deserving our attention.

#### XXVIII. THE PRAISE OF PARIS :

*or a Sketch of the French Capital ; in Extracts of Letters from France, in the Summer of 1802 ; with an Index of many of the Convents, Churches, and Palaces, not in the French Catalogues, which have furnished Pictures for the Louvre-Gallery. By S.W., F.R.S. F.A.S. 8vo. 186 pages. Baldwin.*

THIS work, which must afford gratification to the connoisseur, consists of letters which are marked by a peculiar brevity. We shall insert the letters from page 121 to 142 inclusive as a fair specimen of the publication.

#### "LETTER XLII.

"The environs of Paris are all delightful, but few excursions are made, except to St. Cloud, Versailles, St. Germain's, Vincennes, Meudon, &c. At Arcueil, within

a league of Paris nearly, are the ruins of an aqueduct, which conducted the waters to Julian's Palace, in the *rue de la Harpe*, of which there are still good remains, and full sufficient to show how the ancients constructed their houses, and built with an everlasting cement, of which we have not yet discovered the composition. These antiquities within and without Paris are among the most remarkable in this part of France. For beauty of country, and inequality of ground, in order to have a fine view of the capital, you must go to Montmorency, and the Terrace of St. Leu. The Chateau of Montmorency is now the property of a banker;

"And Hemsley, once proud Buckingham's delight,  
Slides to a Scrivener, or a City-Knight.

"This excursion is about eleven miles from the gate of St. Denis; in your way, you pass La Barre, Choisi, and Aubin, which supply Paris in abundance with plums and cherries; but this year has not been very productive, since July was all water, and August all fire. After you have passed St. Denis, you turn to the left, a little beyond the *grande caserne*, *ci-devant a chateau*, that is made to hold fifteen hundred soldiers. A little farther is Lisle, a Ducal Palace, now the residence of a rich Bourgeois; it is near the river, and looks at a little distance, like Ford-Abbey in Devonshire, or Knoll in Kent. Farther on still, on the right, is the house of a Citizen, formerly *un marchand de rats dans la rue Tire-chappe St. Honoré*, a great discounter of bills, broker, and stock-jobber, who has bought up all the country round about him. As you approach Montmorency, where was Rousseau's hermitage, with Emile, Julie, and Contrat social on the urns, vases, chairs, and commodore, you have in view the pretty villages of Molyon and St. Pris, and La Reveilliere le Pau's house, the great Theophilanthropist. If you do not mean to go to Montmorency, you continue your road on to the village of St. Leu, and then mount the hill to the right, and go to the Chateau



of the Seigneur, who keeps a boarding-house. The Chateau is not in the very best repair, and the grounds want improvements; but as they are, they must charm and delight all visitors; the prospect they command is very extensive; and the protection they afford in their woods, against the excessive heat of such a summer as the last, is the best recommendation I can give them; to say nothing of the society, the cheer which is admirable, and the very moderate terms on which so many comforts are procured, all conspire to make foreigners very ambitious of paying their respects to the Lord of St. Leu. The neighbouring Chateau, whose grounds are watered from the springs that arise in the woods I have been just praising, was once the property of the Duke of Orleans, and purchased by his Grace of the Lord of St. Leu, but never paid for, and by the operation of the revolution never will, since it has been seized as the Duke of Orleans's own, by one of his creditors, Citizen Homberg, of Havre.

#### “LETTER XLIII

“In order to be an eye-witness of the distress, and complicated misery the revolution has brought on the French nation, it is necessary that you should mix with the people in their private societies, and be introduced into their families, and live with them for months together; and when you are a little acquainted, and let into their confidence, you may hear of as many curious cases, as many crimes, and as many infidelities, as it would be necessary to read the *causes celebres* all through to equal the number of. Divorces have been, and still are, the fruitful source of much disorder in French families. It is not uncommon to find women abandoned by their husbands, and left with children on their hands, to which they consent, in order to prevent the husbands being imprisoned for seduction. A case of this sort occurred whilst I was in France. A French officer marries a young lady, makes a settlement on her, which is good for nothing, spends her fortune, has children by her, is sued by another woman for a prior marriage, from whose mother-in-law he had been divorced; the last wife relin-

quishes her claim to him, in order to save him from a jail, and is obliged to look out for another husband to maintain her and her family, because her first is utterly incapable of paying back either her dower, or the *rente alimentaire* out of his appointments, which are but barely sufficient for his own subsistence.

#### “LETTER XLIV.

“There is a piece now playing at the *Ambigu Comique*, on the Boulevards, which represents a Prince in his minority conspired against by evil guardians, who consult together how they may get rid of him; one proposes the bow-string, another a feather-bed, a third a poniard, but the fourth observes, that the easiest, and surest way is, *via de l'Apoticaire*. Here is a singular resemblance to what somebody in the reign of terror is reported to have said of the Dauphin, that to dispatch him was the business of an Apothecary, *l'affaire d'un Apoticaire*.

“I believe there were never more English at Paris, at the conclusion of any war, than there are at this moment. Paris seems to be a fair, which it is the interest or the pleasure of every body to keep. It is a sort of Limbo, or Paradise of fools, where one man comes to look for his wife, another for his mistress, a third for a cockade, Simon for a new dish, and Limmer for a hog'shead of claret.

“If you wish to have good fruit, and at a reasonable price, you must send to the *Marché des Innocents*, the Covent-garden of Paris, at seven o'clock in the morning; and should you happen to be in that quarter, you may, perhaps, find out where you are, by the arms of Lombardy, without having recourse to the corner of the street. These arms have been taken up by the brokers in London, or rather have descended to them from the Italians, who first settled in this country. Many have been the guesses at the meaning of the three balls, but the most plausible is, that it is three to one against you, that what you put in you do not take out. Not far from hence is another street, which was the theatre, in its day, of some very extraordinary transactions, in the year 1719, when the celebrated projector, Law, raised his paper-money to more than eighty times the va-

lue of all the specie in the kingdom. There is a satirical print of the *rue Quinquempoix*, 1720, that exhibits just such another scene as you see in Hogarth's South-Sea, where Pope is represented picking Gay's pocket, to whom Craggs had given a South-Sea share: Pope never forgave this trait of Hogarth; and shewed his resentment by the sullenness of his silence, having never once mentioned or alluded to him, or his performances, though the world rang with the praises of his Harlot's Progress, full ten years before the poet's death. It is not a little remarkable, that the Mississippi and the South-Sea bubbles both burst at Paris and in London in the same year.

#### " LETTER XLV.

" The First Consul continues to surprise the English at every audience, by the extent and variety of his talents, which enable him to speak to every one in his own language. With the natural philosophers, his discourse is on double animals, such as the *Oxyrinchus Paradoxus*, sent by Sir Joseph Banks to the *Cabinet du Jardin des Plantes*; from thence he goes to Galvanism, on which he delivered his opinion, at the Institute, in a grey frock, like a common member. With the bankers, and Ham-burgh merchants, he talks of the difference of the *aggio* in Holland and Venice, or the *vantaggio* of current coin over bank-stock; of the men of physic he enquires, whether they are Sthenics or Asthenics, and if they approve of the Brunian system, of which he had heard so much in Italy.

" In the complementary days, when he made the tour of the shops in the court of the old Louvre, he surprised the glass-manufacturers exceedingly, by telling them the chymical process they used to give the deep purple colour to their decanters.

" In all these things, however multifarious, he seldom betrays himself, or, like Alexander, asks questions that make the colour-grinders smile at his ignorance. It is very extraordinary that a man, whose ambition prompts him to subdue the world and govern it, and who has made no inconsiderable progress towards the attainment of his wishes, should have still leisure and inclina-

tion left to enquire, and inform himself not only of what is doing in general, but of the occupation and employment of individuals. Every artist tries his hand at Bonaparte's features, but they do not all succeed in giving an idea of him to the best advantage, which is, when he smiles; but to paint the First Consul smiling, they perhaps think contrary to *etiquette*. When the duke of Orleans sat to Greuze for his picture, the painter asked his highness how he liked it, " Very well, but, Greuze, you have not given me a smile; *Monsieur, ce n'est pas noble*. The best likeness of Bonaparte on horse-back, with his hat on, is, that of the picture exhibited, No. 22, Piccadilly; the best without a hat, is a print with the name of *Le Fèvre* to it. There is a bust of Julius Cæsar, when young, not unlike the First Consul. The French themselves describe him thus: *Il a une figure chatoyante*, a face emitting rays like a cat's-eye stone; *son sourire est agréable*, *mais sa figure allongée, ou baissée, est pleine de mélancolie*, like the cheerless oval visage of the Stuarts.

#### " LETTER XLVI.

" The French complain that the English speak so much between their teeth, that it is hard to understand them; they make so little use, they say, of their tongues, that they do not seem to be wanted, at least to talk with. *L'Anglais, disent ils, est la seule langue pour qui il ne faut pas une langue*.

" They are at this moment crying the New Constitution about the streets, in eighty-seven articles; the first of which is, the nomination of three Consuls for life. The four preceding constitutions were sold for eighty *sous*, upon which an Englishman gave the hawker a piece of *cent sous*, and he offered twenty in exchange, " Keep it," says the buyer, " it is not worth while to take the change now; it will do for the fifth, and then the next is paid for."

#### " LETTER XLVII.

" English travellers arrive here frequently from making the tour of Flanders. They have been at Brussels, Spa, Cambray, from which last place they bring the following intelligence: the cathedral at Cambray is completely gutted, and as great a ru-

in as St. Denis, or Fountain Abbey. The Passion of our Saviour, in nine large Chiaro-scuros, was taken down during the revolution, and preserved unhurt, in order to be put up again, as soon as the troubles were over; which has been done with great care at St. Aubert, and eight of them are in the church, and the ninth in the sacristy. The relief of the figures is so great, that they appear more like solid statues than shadows. They were the work of Gerard. The only original picture left of Rubens is, a Descent from the Cross, in the church now used for the cathedral, at Cambray. Ghent is untouched. The cathedral of Antwerp has been gutted of its pictures; from this church, alone, three hundred have been taken, of which there are only thirteen now at Paris that have been exhibited. By the removal of the pictures, the columns, also, have been removed, and the church restored to its first principles, and its original proportions of the greatest beauty to an architect; so that what one artist has lost another has gained, and the revolution has been like the ocean, *predator et restitutor*.

#### " LETTER XLVIII.

" There was a French General to night at Frascati, who is as like Louis XV. as one fig to another. He commanded in Italy, against Sorrow, and was of course obliged, like other commanders in critical situations, to take a retrograde position. It is now past ten o'clock, and the company is flowing in fast from the theatres. Phedre has been played to-night at the French house. The connoisseurs prefer Mademoiselle Duchesnoy to M<sup>lle</sup> Xavier, because she has more feeling and less rant; but they say the piece itself is too much laboured, and the pathetic weakened by abundance of description, and excess of high finishing: this is not at all uncommon in our own immortal man, who frequently, by some petty addition to his picture, not knowing when to have done, destroys his own pathos. Racine, however, is more like Callimachus, the famous statuary, than Shakspeare of whom Pliny says, he was never satisfied of his labours, or contented with what he had done; from which he got the name of *Cacizotechnos*, because he made his own

work worse by retouching it. His dancing girls are extremely correct; but they are too much laboured to be graceful." p. 121—142.

We understand the letters were written by the Rev. Stephen Weston; the list of the pictures is gratifying to the curiosity.

XXIX. POEMS LYRICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS. By the late Rev. HENRY MOORE of Liskeard, 153 pages. One Volume, 4to. 10s. 6d. Johnson.

THIS excellent poet was a dissenting minister of great modesty and erudition. He died while his poems were in the press, and Dr. Aiken has written the Life of him with his usual ability.

The *Ode to Religion* is truly beautiful.—

#### " ODE TO RELIGION.

" Fairest daughter of the sky!  
On whose majestic brow  
Divine unutterable glories glow,  
While round thy rosy lip, and placid  
eye,  
Love and the smiling Graces ever play,  
Temp'ring the blaze of thy eternal day—  
Religion, hail! Thou source of hallow'd  
fires,  
Jogs ever pure, and sanctified desires!

" Beneath the brown-rob'd wood,  
Where Contemplation sits in musing  
mood,  
Sooth'd by the hollow gales, and falling  
flood,  
What time the sun to other realms is  
roll'd,  
And Eye's bright tints of purple and of  
gold  
Faint slowly from the western skies away,  
While Cynthia's milder face  
Shoots thro' th' unfolding clouds a silver  
ray,  
And o'er the landscape sheds a softer  
grace,  
Far from the world's delusive scene I fly  
To woo thee from thy native sphere,  
To catch the beamings of thy heav'n-  
bright eye,  
Thou pleasing awful fair!

" There oft methinks I hear the streams  
along  
The melody of thy mellifluous song,

Whose tuneful whisperings suspend the  
soul,  
And ev'ry pow'r in pleas'd attention lull,  
Like those high airs of a superior  
sphere  
Which thrill'd in Adam's fond delighted  
ear,  
While favour'd yet with Innocence to  
rove  
In Eden's blissful grove;  
List'ning, while the guardian Quire  
To sacred raptures touch'd the heav'nly  
lyre,  
Where'er he trod entranc'd, above, a-  
round,  
He heard the solemn, sweet, ecstatic  
sound;  
Now the bold notes in loftier measures  
play'd,  
In soften'd tones now warbled thro' the  
shade,  
And fill'd with melody the midnight vale;  
Now languishing away  
In gradual, slow decay,  
Died on th' expiring gale!

"Onow be present, sky-rob'd Maid,  
In thy divinest smiles array'd!  
Now let my bosom feel thy power,  
And consecrate this solemn hour,  
When freed from busy scenes, and  
noise,  
I seek thy soul-reviving joys!  
To outward shows averse, of praises shy,  
Thou veil'st thy beauties from the public  
eye;  
Thy charms the Wise in calm retirement  
own,  
Still lov'd, and valued more, the more  
they're known.  
'Tis thine secure the fickle heart to guide,  
And keep the passions still on Reason's  
side,  
To clear from error's mist the mental  
sight,  
Refine our joys and sanctify delight,  
Ease the sharp pangs of pain, our griefs  
assuage,  
Embellish youth, and dignify our age,  
To godlike excellence exalt mankind,  
And stamp her Maker's image on the  
mind.

"O blest, whose Soul thy vivid beauties  
charm,  
Thy aims canoble, and thy raptures  
warm!  
He tastes of bliss below,  
Which wealth cou'd never buy, nor  
grandeur know.  
His is the smiling Saint's unruffled rest,  
His the pure flame, that burns the Se-  
raph's breast.  
For him meand'ring from the eternal  
throne  
Heav'n's ever-living rills of pleasure  
run:

For him she opens all her secret bow'rs,  
Brightens her skies, and culls unfading  
flow'rs.

"When dire Ambition calls the world to  
arms,  
And frantic Discord sounds her loud a-  
larms,  
While swell'd from realm to realm, from  
shore to shore,  
O'er half the globe her peals of horror  
roar,  
And like a slumb'ring lion from his  
lair  
Arouse the Fiend of war,  
Their noise no more disturbs his tranquil  
joy,  
Than peevish infants striving for a toy.  
In vain the world's tumultuous billows  
roll  
To shake his steadfast Soul,  
Which in the breast enthron'd, erect,  
serene,  
Defies the fury of the foaming main.  
Blest Genii thus, who range the fields of  
day,

No wrecks of matter wound---unhurt they  
stray  
Thro' spheres of fire---and borne secure  
on high,  
While the rude whirlwinds rush around  
the sky,  
Hear the hoarse thunders roar without  
amaze,  
And sport amid the living lightning's  
blaze.

"Come then, propitious to my prayers  
inspire  
The godlike sentiment, the gen'rous aim.  
From thy bright altar's unextinguished  
fire  
Dart through my fervid breast the hea'v'n-  
ly flame,  
To raise my pow'rs, my passions to re-  
fine,  
'Till the dross working by degrees away  
Shall leave th' immortal ether pure, di-  
vine,  
To rise and mingle with its native  
day:  
O still thro' Life's pernicious snares,  
And wasting toils, and pining cares,  
Smooth the rough road, my griefs  
beguile,  
And make e'en pain and anguish  
smile.  
And when I tread thro' Death's  
dread gloom,  
While Nature trembles o'er the  
tomb,  
Bid radiant beams of mercy rise,  
And soften my expiring sighs."

We also give his lines on Retirement--



## "ON RETIREMENT.

"Far from the cares that vex the world's  
repose,

Here on my mossy couch I rest;  
Reflection's limpid tide serenely flows,  
And no rough passions bluster in my  
breast.

The vernal bloom, that purples o'er the  
vales,

This flow'ring arbour fann'd by cooling  
gales,

The grove's wild warblings, and the  
chidings shrill

Of the rude streams, that wander at their  
will,

And hill, and dale, and forest, lake, and  
lawn,

And light, and shade, in sweet confusion  
thrown,

Delight the soul to pensiveness inclin'd,  
And sooth to solemn thought the musing  
mind.

"Here in these peaceful scenes,  
Daughter of God, indulgent Nature

reigns,  
Divinely fair! as when her infant brows

From the wild waves of teeming Chaos  
rose,

When choral Angels with a pleas'd sar-  
prize

Hail'd the young lustre sparkling in her  
eyes,

And in her radiant form, and lovely  
face,

Saw their own heav'n with full reflected  
grace.

Here still th' æthereal Maid,  
In Beauty's sweet simplicity array'd,

Forms her imperial crown with sylvan  
flow'rs,

And for her palace weaves her woodbine  
bow'rs.

"Or on the summit of yon mountain hoar,  
Lull'd by the cadence deep

Of howling winds, that thro' the forest  
roar,

And rumbling torrents rushing down the  
steep,

She sits enthron'd — around her azure  
head

Low low'ring clouds their solemn gran-  
deur spread.

Or now confess'd in full unclouded day,  
Crown'd with the splendours of the noon-

tide ray,  
She shines in state—majestically plain,

A pomp, which Pride would imitate in  
vain.

"Now to the West, while glides her sinking  
sun,

She culls her colours of the brightest  
hue,

Contrasted, blended, varying to the  
view,

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And pours their mingled glories round  
his throne.

While on her wat'ry mirror we behold  
Her imag'd charms in fair reflected dyes,

Green wave the groves, in azure gleam  
the skies,

And float the clouds, in fleecy volumes  
roll'd

That glow in rosy red, and flame in  
gold.

"The Virtues, happy from within, dis-  
dain

Those toys of empty state, that please  
the vain,

To shine with Fortune on her glittering  
car,

Trimmi'd round with ribbons, blazon'd  
with a star;

Still shy their modest beauties to dis-  
play

In the full blaze of Grandeur's golden  
day;

They dread of Courts the pestilential air,  
And fly the serpent brood, that harbour

there.  
Life's low sequester'd walk delights them

more,  
Rich in content, however small their

store.

"Vot'ries of Nature, by her murmur-  
ing rill,

O'er her green lawns, or in her bow'ring  
wood,

Down her slope vales, or up her high-  
brow'd hill,

They trace in varied forms the Sove-  
reign Good;

Within their little spheres dispense  
Their beneficial influence,

Like yonder stream, that form a source  
conceal'd

Plenty and bloom diffuses o'er the field:  
And pleas'd with silent self-approving

joy,  
Strangers to Fame and Envy, live and

die.

"For Virtue's still the same obscure, or  
known,

Hide in a cot, or blazing on a throne:  
Clad in her rustic garb, and mean attire,

The proud may scorn her, but the wise  
admire.

More grand and awful in the public scene  
She acts with conscious dignity the

Queen!  
In humbler life she charms with gentler

pow'r,  
And, while she awes us less, she pleases

more.  
While high on Lebanon's aerial brow

The cedar's tall majestic honours grow,  
The pride, and glory of the Sylvan

race,

U

The Lily in her lowly bed,  
That coyly bends her beauteous  
head,  
Has her peculiar grace."

Other poems might be extracted of equal merit; and which altogether must impart to his name no small degree of celebrity.

XXX. *An Account of the ENGLISH COLONY in New-South Wales, from its first Settlement, in January 1788, to August 1801: with Remarks on the dispositions, customs, manners, &c. of the native Inhabitants of that Country. To which are added, some particulars of New Zealand; compiled, by permission, from the MSS. of Lieutenant-Governor King; and an Account of a Voyage performed by Captain Flinders and Mr. Bass; by which the existence of a Strait separating Van Dieman's Land from the Continent of New Holland was ascertained. Abstracted from the Journal of Mr. Bass, by Lieutenant-Colonel Collins, of the Royal Marines, late Judge Advocate and Secretary of the Colony. Illustrated by Engravings. Vol. II. 4to.*

MR Collins having met with great success in the publication of his former volume, offers the present to their approbation. We shall insert the advertisement.

London 17th, June 1802.

"The very flattering reception which my former account of the English Colony in New South Wales experienced from a candid and liberal public, has induced me to continue my labours in the character of its historian; having been favoured with materials for this purpose, on the authenticity of which I can safely stake my credit.

"Should the reader feel wearied with the detail of crimes and their consequences, the fault lies not with me. I have only to regret that a soil of so much promise has not produced better fruit. Such as there was, I have diligently gathered; and have endeavoured to render it as palatable as the nature of it would allow me. When we reflect that the exotics with which this

new plantation is supplied are chiefly the refuse of our domestic nurseries; and duly consider that, however beneficial the act of transplantation may finally be found, it must for a time retard the growth, and will generally protract the fruit for a season, however fertile the original stock, we ought, perhaps, considerably to moderate our expectations. By patient culture, skilfully directed, in a climate so propitious, and a soil so favourable, much may yet be effected: after experience shall have once thoroughly ascertained all the dangers and difficulties necessary to be surmounted, before the most judicious cultivators can completely avail themselves of the many local advantages of which the situation is undoubtedly susceptible.

"To relieve the mind as much as possible from the contemplation of enormities, and the disgustingly wretched picture which vice must ever exhibit, I have not only interspersed a few notices of rare and curious objects in natural history peculiar to the Australasian regions; but have also inserted the two voyages which were made in the little sloop Norfolk, by Captain Flinders and Mr. Bass, in the order of time in which they occurred, instead of placing them in an appendix.

"The natives too have contributed to assist me in this part of my undertaking; and some additional light is thrown upon their peculiar manners and customs in the course of the work. It were to be wished, that they never had been seen in any other state than that which the subjoined view of them presents, in the happy and peaceable exercise of their freedom and amusements."

Of their crimes and punishments, take the following extract.

"The judicial appointment having taken place, a criminal court was held on the 23d, and continued sitting, by adjournment, until the 29th, when sentence of death was passed upon eight prisoners who were capitally convicted one, of the wilful murder of the man whose body had been found on the north shore the 16th of last month, and seven of robbing the public store-houses at Sydney, and the settlement at the Hawkesbury. Two others were found guilty of manslaughter.

"Of these miserable people five were executed pursuant to the sentence

of the court. At Sydney\*, Francis Morgan, for wilful murder, with Martin M'Ewen (a soldier) and John Lawler, (a convict,) for robbing the public stores. Matthew M'Nally and Thomas Doyle, convicts, suffered at Parramatta, on the following day, for the same offence.

"Having thus satisfied the public justice of the country, the governor extended the hand of mercy to the three others who had been capitally convicted of the same crime, viz. John M'Douall (another soldier), Thomas Inville, and Michael Doland (convicts), by granting them a conditional pardon.

"It was much to be lamented, that these people were not to be deterred by any example from the practice of robbing the public stores, which had of late been more frequent than heretofore, and for which there could not be admitted the shadow of an excuse; as the whole of the inhabitants of every description were at this very time on a full and liberal allowance of provisions and clothing, neither of which were in any scarcity in the settlement. But the cause was to be found in the too great indulgence in the use of spirituous liquors which had obtained among them for a considerable time past. The different capital crimes, which had lately been brought before the court of criminal judicature, together with the various petty offences that daily came under the cognisance of the magistrates, did not proceed from an insufficiency either of food or clothing; but from an inordinate desire of possessing, by any means whatsoever, those articles with which they might be able to procure spirits, "that source—as the governor expresses himself in an order which he published directly after these executions—that source of the misfortunes of all those whom the laws of their country, and the justice that was due to others, had launched into eternity, surrounded with the crimes of an ill-spent life."

"The court having ordered that Francis Morgan should be hung in chains upon the small island which is situated in the middle of the harbour, and named by the natives Mat-te-wan-ye, a gibbet was accordingly erected, and he was hung there, exhibiting an

object of much greater terror to the natives, than to the white people, many of whom were more inclined to make a jest of it; but to the natives his appearance was so frightful—his clothes shaking in the wind, and the creaking of his irons, added to their superstitious ideas of ghosts (for these children of ignorance imagined that, like a ghost, this man might have the power of taking hold of them by the throat), all rendering him such an alarming object to them, that they never trusted themselves near him, nor the spot on which he hung; which, until this time, had ever been with them a favourite place of resort." p. 10.

The account of a new animal, is very entertaining.

"It is singular, that a place wherein food seemed to be so scarce should yet be so thickly inhabited by the small brush kangaroo, and a new quadruped, which was also a grass-eater.

This animal, being a new one, appears to deserve a particular description. The Wom-bat (or as it is called by the natives of Port Jackson, the Womback) is a squat, thick, short-legged, and rather inactive quadruped, with great appearance of stumpy strength, and somewhat bigger than a large turnspit dog. Its figure and movements, if they do not exactly resemble those of the bear, at least strongly remind one of that animal.

"Its length, from the tip of the tail to the tip of the nose, is thirty-one inches, of which its body takes up twenty-three and five-tenths. The head is seven inches, and the tail five-tenths. Its circumference behind the fore-legs, twenty-seven inches; across the thickest part of the belly, thirty-one inches. Its weight by hand is somewhat between twenty-five and thirty pounds. The hair is coarse, and about one inch or one inch and five tenths in length, thinly set upon the belly, thicker on the back and head, and thickest upon the loins and rump; the colour of it a light sandy brown, of varying shades, but darkest along the back.

"The head is large and flattish, and, when looking the animal full in the face, seems, excluding the ears, to form nearly an equilateral triangle, any side of which is about seven inches and five tenths in length, but the upper side, or that which constitutes the breadth of the head, is rather the

\*On the 30th. November, and the others on the 9th. and 10th. of December.

shortest. The hair upon the face lies in regular order, as if it were combed, with its ends pointed upwards in a kind of radii, from the nose their centre.

"The ears are sharp and erect, of two inches and three-tenths in length, stand well asunder, and are in nowise disproportionate. The eyes are small, and rather sunken than prominent, but quick and lively. They are placed about two inches and five tenths asunder, a little below the centre of the imaginary triangle towards the nose. The nice co-adaptation of their ciliary processes, which are covered with a fine hair, seems to afford the animal an extraordinary power of excluding whatever might be hurtful.

"The nose is large or spreading, the nostrils large, long, and capable of being closed. They stand angularly with each other, and a channel is continued from them towards the upper lip, which is divided like the hare's. The whiskers are rather thick and strong, and are in length from two to three inches and five tenths.

"The opening of its mouth is small; it contains five long grass-cutting teeth in the front of each jaw, like those of the kangaroo; within them is a vacancy for an inch or more, then appear two small canine teeth of equal height with, and so much similar to, eight molares situated behind, as scarcely to be distinguishable from them. The whole number in both jaws amount to twenty-four.

"The neck is thick and short, and greatly restrains the motions of the head, which, according to the common expression, looks as if it was stuck upon the shoulders.

"From the neck the back arches a little as far as the loins, whence it goes off at a flat slope to the hindmost parts where not any tail is visible. A tail, however, may be found by carefully passing the finger over the flat slope in a line with the back bone. After separating the hairs, it is seen of some five tenths of an inch in length, and from three to one tenth of an inch in diameter, naked except for a few short fine hairs near its end. This curious tail seemed to hold a much bolder proportion in the young than in the full-grown animal.

"The fore legs are very strong and muscular: their length, to the sole of the paw, is five inches five tenths,

and the distance between them is five inches and five tenths. The paws are fleshy, round, and large, being one inch and nine tenths in diameter.

Their claws are five in number, attached to as many short digitations. The three middle claws are strong, and about eight or nine tenths of an inch in length; the thumb and little finger claws are also strong, but shorter than the others, being only from six to seven tenths of an inch. The fleshy root of the thumb claw is smaller and more flexible than the others. The sole of the paw is hard, and the upper part is covered with the common hair, down to the roots of the claws, which it overhangs. The hind legs are less strong and muscular than the fore; their length, to the sole, is five inches and five tenths; the distance between, seven inches and five tenths. The hind paw is longer than the fore, but not less fleshy; its length is two inches and seven tenths, its breadth two inches and six tenths. The claws are four in number; the three inner ones are less strong, but about two tenths of an inch longer than the longest of the fore claws; and there is a fleshy spur in the place of a thumb claw. The whole paw has a curve, which throws its fore part rather inward.

"In size the two sexes are nearly the same, but the female is perhaps rather the heaviest.

"In the opinion of Mr. Bass, this Wom-bar seemed to be very economically made, but he thought it unnecessary to give an account of its internal structure in his journal.

"This animal has not any claim to swiftness of foot, as most men could run it down. Its pace is hobbling or shuffling, something like the awkward gait of a bear. In disposition it is mild and gentle, as becomes a grass-eater; but it bites hard, and is furious, when provoked. Mr. Bass never heard its voice but at that time; it was a low cry, between a hissing and a whizzing, which could not be heard at a distance of more than thirty or forty yards. He chased one, and, with his hands under his belly, suddenly lifted him off the ground without hurting him, and laid him upon his back along his arm, like a child. It made no noise, nor any effort to escape, not even a struggle. Its countenance was placid and undisturbed,



and it seemed as contented as if it had been nursed by Mr. Bass\* from its infancy. He carried the beast upwards of a mile, and often shifted him from arm to arm, sometimes laying him upon his shoulder, all of which he took in good part; until, being obliged to secure his legs while he went into the brush to cut a specimen of a new wood, the creature's anger arose with the pinching of the twine; he whizzed with all his might, kicked and scratched most furiously, and snapped off a piece from the elbow of Mr. Bass's jacket with his grass-cutting teeth. Their friendship was here at an end, and the creature remained implacable all the way to the boat, ceasing to kick only when he was exhausted.

"This circumstance seemed to indicate, that with kind treatment the Wom-bat might soon be rendered extremely docile, and probably affectionate; but let his tutor beware of giving him provocation, at least if he should be full grown.

"Besides Furneaux's islands, the Wom-bat inhabits, as has been seen, the mountains to the westward of Port Jackson. In both these places its habitation is under ground, being admirably formed for burrowing, but to what depth it descends does not seem to be ascertained. According to the account given of it by the natives, the Wom-bat of the mountains is never seen during the day, but lives retired in his hole, feeding only in the night; but that of the islands is seen to feed in all parts of the day. His food is not yet well known, but it seems probable that he varies it, according to the situation in which he may be placed. The stomachs of such as Mr. Bass examined were distended with the coarse wiry grass, and he, as well as others, had seen the animal scratching among the dry ricks of sea-weed thrown up upon the shores, but could never discover what it was in search of. Now the inhabitant of the mountains can have no recourse to the sea-shore for his food, nor can he find there any wiry grass of the islands, but must live upon the food that cir-

"\* The kangaroo, and some other animals in New South Wales, were remarkable for being domesticated as soon as taken.

cumstances present to him." p. 157.

We shall close our selections with a further sketch of the depravity of the convicts, many of whom are incorrigible.

"Deplorable was the catalogue of events that presented itself in this month; executions, robberies, and accidents.

"On the 8th a prisoner, who had been condemned to die by the last court, suffered the sentence of the law. The recollection of his untimely end, and his admonitions from the fatal tree, could not have departed from the minds of those who saw and heard him, when another court sent another offender to the same tree and for the same crime. Samuel Wright had been once before respited at the gallows. On the morning of his execution, the wretched man attempted to cut his throat; but as he only very slightly wounded himself, it may be supposed that he merely hoped, by delaying the execution, to gain time to effect an escape.

"Before this court was brought part of a nest of thieves, who had lately stolen property to the amount of several hundred pounds, but none of them were capitally convicted, being sentenced either to be transported to Norfolk island, or corporally punished.

"It might be supposed that these executions and punishments would have operated as a check to the commission of offences; but they appeared to be wholly disregarded, and enormity had not yet attained its full height.

"On the night of the 11th, between the hours of eleven and twelve, the public gaol at Sydney, which cost so much labour and expence to erect, was set on fire, and soon completely consumed. The building was thatched, and there was not any doubt of its having been done through design. But, if this was the fact, it will be read with horror, that at the time there were confined within its walls twenty prisoners, most of whom were loaded with irons, and who with difficulty were snatched from the flames. Feeling for each other was never imputed to these miscreants, and yet, if several were engaged in the commission of a crime, they have seldom been

known to betray their companions in iniquity.

"To complete this catalogue of offences, a few days after, some Irish convicts, with their faces blackened, attacked the house of an industrious man, (one of the missionaries) whom they severely wounded in several places, and plundered of all his property.

"Were it not evident that certain punishment awaited the conviction of offenders, it might be supposed that a relaxation of the civil authority had begotten impunity; but far otherwise was the fact; the police was vigilant, the magistrates active, and the governor ever anxious to support them, and with incessant diligence endeavouring to establish good order and morality in the settlement. But, such was the depravity of these people, from the habitual practice of vice, that they were become alike fearless of the punishment of this or of the world to come.

"Notwithstanding the settlement had before it the serious prospect of wanting grain, and the consequent destruction of much useful stock, it was known that several people had erected stills and provided materials for the purpose of distilling spirituous liquors; a pernicious practice, which had long been forbidden by every officer who had had the direction of the colony. Former orders on this subject were now repeated, and persons of all descriptions were called upon to use every means in their power, in aid of the civil magistrate, to seize and destroy such stills and materials as they might find.

"Presuming on the late inefficient harvest, the settlers requested again to be supplied with seed wheat from the store, but were refused. It was well known that they sold for spirits, to the last bushel of their crop, and left their families without bread. Then they pleaded poverty and distress, and their utter inability to repay what they had borrowed. When seed has been lent them, they have not unfrequently been seen to sell it at the door of the store whence they had received it!

"On the last day of the month a man belonging to the military was found dead, sitting upright against the outside of the barrack paling. It was known that he had been much in-

toxicated the preceding night; and it was supposed that, being unable to reach his hut, he had sat himself down, and, falling asleep, passed from this life without a struggle.

"The great drought and excessive heat had affected the water. Such ponds as still retained any were reduced so very low, that most of them were become brackish, and scarcely drinkable. From this circumstance, it was conjectured, that the earth contained a large portion of salt, for the ponds even on the high grounds were not fresh. The woods between Sydney and Parramatta were completely on fire, the trees being burnt to the tops, and every blade of grass was destroyed.

"To defeat as much as possible the intentions of those who were concerned in setting fire to the gaol, a strong and permanent building of stone, with very substantial walls, was begun in this month, and was well calculated to defy every such attempt in future." p. 199.

The plates are curious, and serve well for illustrating many scenes and objects in that distant part of the world.

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XXXI. AN ESSAY ON WAR, in blank Verse; *Honington Green, a Ballad; the Culprit, an Elegy; and other Poems on various Subjects.* By NATHANIEL BLOOMFIELD. One Volume small 8vo. 5s. Hurst.

MR. N. Bloomfield (the brother of the Farmer's Boy) has laid before the public in this volume, a variety of pleasing pieces, which shew that a poetical genius resides in the family of Bloomfield.

In his *essay* having detailed the miseries of WAR as rising from a sad necessity (the truth of which however we seriously question) he thus concludes the poem.—

"Incessant is the war of human wit,  
Oppos'd to bestial strength; and variously  
Successful: in these happy fertile climes,  
Man still maintains his surreptitious power;

Reign's o'er the brutes, and, with the  
voice of fate,  
Says 'This to-day, and that to-morrow  
dies.'

Though here our shambles blazon the  
renown,  
The victory, and rule, of lordly man;  
Far wider tracts within the torrid zone  
Own no such lord: where sol's intenser  
rays

Create in bestial hearts more fervid fires,  
And deadlier poisons arm the serpent's  
tooth;

In gloomy shades, impassable to man,  
Where matted foliage exclude the sun,  
The torpid birds that crawl from bough  
to bough

Utter their notes of terror: while be-  
neath

Fury and venom, couch'd in murky dens,  
Hissing and yelling, guard the hideous  
gloom.

O'er dreary wastes, untrod by human  
feet,

Without controul the lordly lion reigns;  
And every creature trembles at his voice:  
When risen from his den, he prances  
forth,

Extends his talons, shakes his flaky  
mane,

Then whurrs his tufted tail, and stooping  
low

His wide mouth near the ground, his  
dreadful roar

Makes all the desert tremble: he pro-  
claims

His ire... proclaims his strong necessity;  
And that surprise or artifice he scorns.

"Unskill'd, alas! in philosophic lore,  
Unbless'd with scientific erudition;

How can I sing of elemental war,  
Or the contending powers of opposite

Attractions, that impel, and poize, and  
guide,

The ever-rolling spheres: animal war,  
The flux of life, devouring and devour'd;

Ceaseless in every tribe, through earth  
and air,

And ocean, transcends my utmost ken.

"From obvious truths my song has  
aim'd to shew

That war is an inevitable ill;  
An ill through nature's varied realms

diffused;  
An ill subservient to the general good.

"With sympathetic sense of human  
woes

Deeply impress'd, the melancholy muse  
With modesty asserts this mournful truth;

'Tis not in human wisdom to avert,  
Though every feeling heart must sur-  
lament,

The sad necessity of fatal war.

*Love's Triumph* is a fair specimen

of his talents, and interesting to our  
sensibility.—

# " LOVE'S TRIUMPH.

"Come, let us seek the woodland shade,  
And leave this view of towns and  
towers;

Sweeter far the verdant mead,  
And lonely dell's sequester'd bowers.

Why does my love this walk prefer;

This hill, so near the public way?

Why this prospect dear to her?

Where villas proud their pomp dis-  
play?

Ah! why does Mary sometimes sigh,

Surveying this magnific scene?

The seats of grandeur tow'ring high,

With rivers, groves, and lawns be-  
tween?

On splendid cars, that smoothly move,

With high-born youths gay damsels  
ride!

By the encircling arm of love

Press'd to the wealthy lover's side.

Why turn to view their easy state,

As the long glittering train moves by?

And when they reach the pompous gate,

Ah! why does youthful Mary sigh?

Doth envy that fond bosom heave?

Repining at her humble lot—

Alas! does Mary long to leave

The lonely dale and lowly cot?

Pure and sincere is Mary's Love:

Words were superfluous to tell;

A thousand tendernesses prove

That Mary loves her Stephen well.

When list'ning to the Stockdove's moan,

Far in the deep sequester'd grove,

The blush that whisper'd, 'We're alone,'

Sweetly confess'd the power of love.

Exalted love concealment mocks,

This feign'd indifference does but  
prove

That was I lord of fields and flocks,

My Mary's lips would own her love.

Doth poverty create the fears

That o'er your love their shadows  
fling?

The silence of those falling tears

Confesses all the truth I sing.

O! Mary, let not empty shew,

Let not the pride of gaudy dress,

Thus cloud thy morn of life with woe,

And blight its future happiness.

Trust the monition Baldwin gave,  
Our future bliss its truth shall prove,  
Life's cares the lovers who dare brave,  
Shall find their rich reward in love.

Baldwin, the hoary-headed bard,  
I still consult when cares annoy :  
He own'd for me a fond regard ;  
And calls me still his darling boy.

His mind is fraught with spoils of time ;  
He's wise and good, though known to few :  
He gave me this advice in rhyme,  
And here I'll read the song to you :—

‘ Though envious age affects to deem  
thee boy,

‘ Lose not one day, one hour, of prof-  
ferr'd bliss ;

‘ In youth grasp every unoffending joy,  
‘ And wing'd with rapture snatch the  
bridal kiss.

‘ Let not this chief of blessings be de-  
ferr'd,

‘ Till you your humble fortunes can  
improve ;

None's poor but he, by sordid fears de-  
terr'd,

‘ Who dares not claim the matchless  
wealth of love.

‘ Virtue can make most rich thy little  
store ;

‘ Virtue can make most bright thy  
lowly state :

‘ Murmur not then that virtuous thou art  
poor,

‘ While prosperous vice can make  
men rich and great.

‘ The bad man may, his every sense to  
please,

‘ Each soft indulging luxury employ :

‘ The plenitude of elegance and ease

‘ He may possess ; but never can en-  
joy.

‘ No—though his goods, and flocks, and  
herds abound ;

‘ His wide demesne to fair profusion  
groan ;

‘ Though proud his lofty mansion looks  
around,

‘ On hills, and fields, and forests, all  
his own :

‘ Tho' this may tempt thee, murmuring  
to complain,

‘ With conscience clear, and life void  
of offence,

‘ Verily, then, I've cleans'd my heart in  
vain ;

‘ In vain have wash'd my hands in  
innocence.”

‘ Yet, could'st thou closely mark the  
envied man,

‘ See how desires ungovern'd mar his  
peace ;

‘ Or had'st thou power his inward mind  
to scan,

‘ How soon in pity would thy envy  
cease !

‘ Envenom'd passions all his thoughts  
unhinge !

‘ The slave of vice must thy compas-  
sion move ;

‘ If still he burns with thirst of dire re-  
venge,

‘ Lawless ambition or unhallow'd  
love.

‘ Midst gayest scenes he wears a gloomy  
frown :

‘ Vain is the splendour that his dome  
adorns ;

‘ While he reclines on silky heaps of  
down,

‘ His tortur'd mind is weltering on  
thorns.

‘ To prove that man oppress'd with mental  
pain,

‘ The goods of fortune have no power  
to please,

‘ Even suicide has oft been known to  
stain

‘ The downy couch of most luxurious  
ease.

‘ The active life of labour gives no room  
To that dull spleen the indolent en-  
dure ;

‘ Generous cares dispel our mental gloom,  
‘ And industry is melancholy's cure.

‘ Repine not then, that low thy lot is  
cast ;

‘ Health gives to life or high or low  
its zest ;

‘ 'Tis appetite that seasons our repast,  
‘ And weariness still finds the softest  
rest.

‘ For all thy blessings, thankfulness to  
wake,

‘ Think of less cultur'd lands, less  
peaceful times ;

‘ Our coarsest fare, when sparingly we  
take,

‘ 'Tis luxury, compar'd with other  
climes.

‘ Think of the poor Greenlanders' dis-  
mal caves,

‘ Where thro' their long, long night  
they buried lie ;

‘ Or the more wretched lands where  
hapless slaves

‘ Hopelessly toil beneath the fervid  
sky.



- ' In Britain, blest with peace and competence,
- ' Rich fortune's favours could impart no more :—
- ' Heaven's blessings equal happiness dispense ;
- ' Believe my words, for I am old and poor.
- ' Many who drudge in labours' roughest ways,
- ' By whom life's simplest, lowliest walks are trod,
- ' Happily live, to honour'd length of days,
- ' Blessing kind nature, and kind nature's God.

What think you, is sage Baldwin right ?  
Should spring tide love endure delay ?  
And shall our bliss be seal'd ere night ?  
Say, lovely Mary, softly say ?

Why starts my love ?—why rise to go ?  
Will Mary then my suit deny ?  
Sweet is the smile that answers, No !  
By heaven, there's rapture in her eye !” p. 81.

XXXII. AN ACCOUNT of the  
*Island of Ceylon, containing its History, Geography, Natural History, with the Manners and Customs of its various Inhabitants ; to which is added, the Journal of an Embassy to the Court of Candy. Illustrated by a Map and Charts. By ROBERT PERCIVAL, Esq. of his Majesty's Nineteenth Regiment of Foot. 4to. 400 pages. 1l. 8s. bds. Baldwin.*

MR. Percival, an officer in the army, has here presented us with a well written account of the island of Ceylon, in the East Indies, and which indeed is to be ranked not amongst the least valuable of our possessions in that distant part of the world.

“ General Description of Ceylon.

“ The island of Ceylon lies between 5 deg. 40 min. and 10 deg. 30 min. north latitude ; and between 79 deg. and 82 deg. east longitude. It is situated at the entrance of the bay of Bengal, by which it is bounded on the north. On the north west it is se-

parated from the Coromandel coast by the gulph of Manaar, a narrow strait full of shoals, and impassable by large ships. It is distant about sixty leagues from cape Comorin, the southern point of the peninsula of India, which divides the Coromandel and Malabar coasts. Its circumference is computed to be about nine hundred miles, and its length, from Point Pedro at the northern extremity to Donderhead at the southern, is about three hundred miles. Its breadth is very unequal, being in some parts only from forty to fifty miles, while in others it extends to sixty, seventy, and even one hundred. Towards the southern parts it is much broader than in the northern, and nearly resembles a *ham* in shape. The peninsula of Jafnapatam has hence received from the Dutch the name of *Hamsheel*, and Point Pedro they call *Hamsheel Point*.

“ As you approach the island from the sea, it presents a fresher green to the eye, and has every way a more fertile appearance than most parts of the Malabar and Coromandel coasts. This I had an opportunity of observing in nearly every quarter, as on my passage from Madras I almost completely coasted round the island. All the flat tracts on the sea-shore are bounded by beautiful *topes*, or groves of cocoa-nut trees, while the intermediate plain is covered with rich fields of rice ; and the prospect usually terminates in woods, which cover the sides of the mountains, and display a verdant foliage through every season of the year. Such a prospect has the most pleasing effect on the eye, after being fatigued with the shores of barren white sand which every where skirt the continent.

“ The appearance of the eastern coast is bald and rocky, and a few reefs of rocks run out into the sea on the south east, between Point de Galle and Batacolo. The deep water on the eastern shores admits the approach of the largest vessels in safety ; and if that side of the island be the least fertile, its other defects are amply compensated by the harbours of Trincomalee and Batacolo. The north and north west coast from Point Pedro to Columbo is flat, and every where indented with inlets of the sea, frequently of considerable magnitude. The largest of them extends almost

quite across the island, from Mullipatti to Jaffnapatam on the north west point of the island, and forms the peninsula of Jaffnapatam. Several of these inlets form small harbours; but so full is that coast of sand-banks and shallows, that it is impossible for vessels of a large size to approach them. Small craft, however, find stations here sufficiently convenient and secure.

"The interior of the island abounds with steep and lofty mountains, covered with thick forests and full of almost impenetrable jungles. The woods and mountains completely surround the dominions of the king of Candy, and seem destined by nature to defend him against those foreign enemies whose superior skill and power have deprived him of the open tracts on the sea-coast. The most lofty range of mountains divides the island nearly into two parts, and so completely separates them from each other, that both the climate and seasons on either side are essentially different. These mountains also terminate completely the effect of the monsoons, which set in periodically from opposite sides of them; so that not only the opposite sea-coast, but the whole country in the interior suffers very little from these storms."

p. 33.

*Trincomalee* is the principal harbour of the island, and distinguished for its safety. The *Fishing for Pearls*, which commences in February and ends the beginning of April, is truly curious.

"During the season, all the boats regularly sail and return together. A signal gun is fired at Arippe, about ten o'clock at night, when the whole fleet sets sail with the land breeze. They reach the banks before day-break; and at sun-rise commence fishing. In this they continue busily occupied till the sea breeze, which arises about noon, warns them to return to the bay. As soon as they appear within sight, another gun is fired, and the colours hoisted, to inform the anxious owners of their return. When the boats come to land, their cargoes are immediately taken out, as it is necessary to have them completely unloaded before night. Whatever may have been the success of their boats, the owners seldom wear the looks of disappointment; for, although they may have been unsuccessful one day,

they look with the most complete assurance of better fortune to the next; as the Brahmins and conjurers, whom they implicitly trust in defiance of all experience, understand too well the liberality of a man in hopes of good fortune, not to promise them all they can desire.

"Each of the boats carries twenty men, with a tindal or chief boatman, who acts as pilot. Ten of the men row and assist the divers in re-ascending. The other ten are divers; they go down into the sea by five at a time; when the first five come up, the other five go down, and by this method of alternately diving, they give each other time to recruit themselves for a fresh plunge.

"In order to accelerate the descent of the divers, large stones are employed: five of these are brought in each boat for the purpose; they are of a reddish granite, common in this country, and of a pyramidal shape, round at top and bottom, with a hole perforated through the smaller end sufficient to admit a rope. Some of the divers use a stone shaped like a half-moon, which they fasten round the belly when they mean to descend, and thus keep their feet free.

"These people are accustomed to dive from their very infancy, and fearlessly descend to the bottom in from four to ten fathom water, in search of the oysters. The diver, when he is about to plunge, seizes the rope, to which one of the stones we have described is attached, with the toes of his right foot, while he takes hold of a bag of net-work with those of his left; it being customary among all the Indians to use their toes in working or holding as well as their fingers, and such is the power of habit that they can pick up even the smallest thing from the ground with their toes as nimbly as an European could with his fingers. The diver thus prepared, seizes another rope with his right hand, and holding his nostrils shut with the left, plunges into the water, and by the assistance of the stone speedily reaches the bottom. He then hangs the net round his neck, and with much dexterity, and all possible dispatch, collects as many oysters as he can while he is able to remain under water, which is usually about two minutes. He then resumes his former position, makes a signal to those above by pulling the

rope in his right hand, and is immediately by this means drawn up and brought into the boat, leaving the stone to be pulled up afterwards by the rope attached to it.

"The exertion undergone during this process is so violent, that upon being brought into the boat, the divers discharge water from their mouth, ears, and nostrils, and frequently even blood. But this does not hinder them from going down again in their turn. They will often make from forty to fifty plunges in one day; and at each plunge bring up about a hundred oysters. Some rub their bodies over with oil, and stuff their ears and noses to prevent the water from entering; while others use no precautions whatever. Although the usual time of remaining under water does not much exceed two minutes, yet there are instances known of divers who could remain four and even five minutes, which was the case with a Caffree boy the last year I visited the fishery. The longest instance ever known was that of a diver who came from Anjango in 1797, and who absolutely remained under water full six minutes.

"This business of a diver, which appears so extraordinary and full of danger to an European, becomes quite familiar to an Indian, owing to the natural suppleness of his limbs, and his habits from his infancy. His chief terror and risk arise from falling in with the groundshark while at the bottom. This animal is a common and terrible inhabitant of all the seas in these latitudes; and is a source of perpetual uneasiness to the adventurous Indian. Some of the divers are so skilful as to avoid the shark even when they remain under water for a considerable time. When the terrors of this foe are so continually before their eyes, and the uncertainty of escaping him so great, that these superstitious people seek for safety in supernatural means. Before they begin diving, the priest, or conjurer, is always consulted, and whatever he says to them is received with the most implicit confidence. The preparation which he enjoins them consists of certain ceremonies according to the cast and sect to which they belong, and on the exact performance of these they lay the greatest stress. Their belief in the efficacy of these superstitious rites can never be removed, however different the event may be from the predictions

of their deluders: Government therefore wisely gives way to their prejudices, and always keeps in pay some conjurers, to attend the divers and remove their fears. For though these people are so skilful and so much masters of their art, yet they will not on any account descend till the conjurer has performed his ceremonies. His advises are religiously observed, and generally have a tendency to preserve the health of the devotee. The diver is usually enjoined to abstain from eating before he goes to plunge and to bathe himself in fresh water immediately after his return from the labours of the day.

"The conjurers are known in the Malabar language by the name of *pillal karras*, or *binders of sharks*. During the time of the fishery, they stand on the shore from the morning till the boats return in the afternoon, all the while muttering and mumbling prayers, distorting their bodies into various strange attitudes, and performing ceremonies to which no one, not even themselves I believe, can attach any meaning. All this while it is necessary for them to abstain from food and drink, otherwise their prayers would be of no avail. These acts of abstinence, however, they sometimes dispense with, and regale themselves with toddy, a species of liquor distilled from the palm-tree, till they are no longer able to stand at their devotions.

"Some of the conjurers frequently go in the boats with the divers, who are greatly delighted at the idea of having their protectors along with them; but in my opinion, this fancied protection renders the divers more liable to accidents, as it induces them to venture too much and without proper precautions, in full confidence of the infallible power of their guardians. It must not however be imagined, that these conjurers are altogether the dupes of their own arts, or that they accompany their votaries to the fishery merely from an anxious care of their safety; their principal purpose in going thither is, if possible, to fish a valuable pearl. As this is the case, it is evident that the superintendent of the fishery must look upon their voyagers with a jealous eye; such however is the devoted attachment of their votaries, that he is obliged to pass it over in silence, or at least to conceal his suspicions of their real intentions.

(To be continued in our next.)

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